

# The impact of UKSPF in Flintshire

Wedi ei ariannu gan  
Llywodraeth y DU



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## Foreword

### Councillor Chris Dolphin, Flintshire County Council cabinet member for economy, environment, and climate.

From the increased usage of community facilities to the adoption of green technologies, the positive effects of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) are evident across Flintshire.

Since receiving more than £12.4m from the UK government between 2022 and 2025, the county has delivered 26 projects under the fund's three core themes: communities and place, people and skills, and supporting local business, as well as improving adult numeracy skills via the Multiply programme.

The UKSPF has been crucial in helping service providers deliver tailored schemes that address the needs of individuals and organisations at a local level to help increase Flintshire's long-term social prosperity, and facilitate greater job creation and retention.

Enhancements to the natural and built environment, as well as improved infrastructure and conservation efforts, have also encouraged more residents and visitors to explore the towns and coastline of Flintshire.

Reflecting upon these outcomes, I believe the county is well placed to go from strength to strength over the coming years and I hope we see the benefit to the Flintshire economy and an overall greater sense of pride within residents towards their local area.





# Community and place



## Flintshire firms accommodate exponential growth with new property

The expansion of the Oasis Hair and Beauty salon and The Kings Academy, showed no signs of stopping after crucial relocation plans and growth goals were accelerated.

The Flintshire businesses, founded and owned by Sara King, moved into a freshly renovated property just a few doors down from their former base on Station Road, Queensferry.

**Sara said:** “The new property will allow me to fulfil my vision of recruiting more staff and serving more clients, all within a freshly renovated space.

“With the Kings Academy providing private training to more than 60 learners a week, staying in the heart of Queensferry has also been beneficial as it allows us to continue serving our community, as well as drawing people to the area, which helps boost the local economy.

“Overall, I’m very grateful to the Town Centre Property Improvement Grant which has enabled us to upgrade the building, as without the changes we would have been forced to move further from the town centre to find something suitable.”

## Welsh charity invites Flintshire schools to help reduce the county’s litter

Keep Wales Tidy’s vision to create a cleaner, more environmentally friendly Flintshire took another giant leap forward thanks to the launch of the Only Rain Down the Drain project.

As part of the charity’s initiative to eradicate litter across the nation, the scheme aims to highlight how improper waste disposal pollutes our oceans, rivers, canals, and lakes.

The programme plans to engage with Flintshire schools to mark drains with non-permanent yellow chalk spray or fish stencils as a reminder to correctly dispose of garbage.

Schools signing up to the initiative will receive interactive lesson plans for years 1-10 explaining how to prevent water pollution, the role of clean water in the eco-system, and the importance of keeping roadside drains free from waste

**Keep Wales Tidy project officer Carlyne Prew said:** “Without the support of the UKSPF, we wouldn’t have been able to organise the initiative, as it has allowed us to purchase the necessary materials such as stencils and eco-friendly spray paints.”

## Additional projects

From promoting healthy living to supporting SMEs to develop products for home and export, find out how the UKSPF has been used by Gogledd Cymru Actif North Wales and Horticulture Wales to make a difference across Flintshire.

[Click to read more](#)





# Celebrating Welsh history at Greenfield Valley

An excavation led to the discovery of a horse bridle mount dating back to the late Iron Age at the Greenfield Valley Heritage Park.

The artifact, which is up to 2,000 years old, was found within the remains of a newly discovered settlement that likely belonged to the Iron Age Deceangli tribe.

The precious item was found by Edward Whitby, a teenager whose desire to be an archaeologist has only increased as a result of the discovery.

**Hailing from Bagillt, the 17-year-old said:** “I’m over the moon to have found it, I was shaking; it was so exciting as it is so different to the ordinary.”

As well as the mount, several pieces of pottery, a hearth, and rows of postholes relating to the multi period settlement were uncovered.

In a further celebration of history, Greenfield Valley Heritage Park also opened an exhibition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the last train to pass through the valley.

**Ray Bailey, who helped put the exhibition together, said:** “It’s brilliant that so much history can be shared with people.”

# Watch: Formerly extinct toads and Grade II listed buildings

Discover how our Connecting Coast to Countryside project reintroduced a formerly extinct toad, secured a Grade II listed building and more using the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).



# Inclusivity and sustainability on the rise in Flintshire

Thanks to the Flintshire Community Key Fund, administered in partnership by Cadwyn Clwyd and FLVC, more than 30 organisations ranging from sports and social clubs to community hubs across the county have been empowered to increase equality and inclusivity, reduce carbon emissions, foster biodiversity, and improve digital technologies.

One such recipient was Connah’s Quay Cricket Club, which installed new flooring throughout its clubhouse, helping level the ground and improve access for those with disabilities.

The financial backing also enabled the Central Park outfit to cater to its growing number of female members as well as overall visitors, by increasing its ladies and accessible toilet facilities by 50 per cent.

**Connah’s Quay Cricket Club chairman Nick Pratt said:** “The feedback from members and visitors has been overwhelmingly positive and we’ve received many compliments on how fresh it feels.”





# Supporting local business

## Social enterprise ensures people, planet, and economy are Well-Fed

Well-Fed's commitment to a food system that benefits people, the planet, and the economy shows no signs of slowing down with ambitious growth plans receiving key digital support.

With a pledge to ensure that everyone has access to zero ultra-processed food that is high in quality, regardless of income, the social enterprise is bidding to triple its current output and provide 60,000 meals per week.

With assistance from Ambition North Wales, which received funding from Flintshire County Council, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), that goal is becoming increasingly realistic.

Well-Fed utilised the SME connectivity assessments project to uncover ways to enhance performance, increase productivity, and gain a competitive edge.

**The organisation's business development manager Niki Keegan said:**  
"The support provided will help improve the meal creation process, as we will be able to input all data into one place."

"We're also centralising the website so that all orders go through there, and the fact that it is online means we will be more accurate."

## Growth and job creation accelerated at Flintshire manufacturers

The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) Cymru, part of the University of Sheffield, has empowered 32 companies to boost their productivity, sustainability, and employment opportunities.

The support was offered via the organisation's Accelerating Decarbonisation and Productivity Technology and Skills (ADAPTS) scheme, which aimed to accelerate growth and create more job roles amongst Flintshire manufacturers.

Funded by the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the programme's participants were supported through a mix of reports, training events, and one-to-one assistance.

From the 32 beneficiaries, 16 firms gained additional help including contract development and manufacturing organisation Biofortuna.

**Biofortuna development and manufacturing manager Chris McCarthy said:** "ADAPTS provided us with tailor-made, bespoke solutions to our niche problem."

Addressing the scheme as a whole, AMRC Cymru project manager Natalie Jones said: "Owing to the timescale of the programme and the nature of the work carried out, the overall impact of our activity will continue to be seen through job creation and retention in the coming months and years, and we're excited to hear about these stories."

## Ewloe Social Club reducing its carbon footprint

Thanks to the Flintshire Fund Antur Cymru project, businesses across the county are one step closer to achieving net zero. Watch to learn how the UKSPF-backed programme has helped one popular social club reduce its carbon footprint.





# RAM Innovations sees growth plans accelerated

RAM Innovations’ growth plans have been accelerated by a project supported by UK Government funding.

The Flintshire firm strengthened its team with the appointment of Lili McDonald Mawdesley after the Bangor University student completed a successful internship.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Deeside-headquartered company’s workforce has increased by 200 per cent, and general manager Peter Green is looking to employ more than 60 people in the coming years.

With its client list increasing and process engineer Lili now on board full-time, the future is a positive one for RAM Innovations, a bespoke and flexible provider to the semiconductor and electronics industries.

**Peter said:** “It’s wonderful to have been able to offer Lili a job at the end of what has been a fantastic placement.”

**On her placement, the 21-year-old Bangor University alumni, said:** “I found it fun and interesting and the fact that I discovered employment in electrical engineering in Wales was huge for me.”

## Discover more business stories

From accelerating business’ journeys to net zero through the FAST and the Flintshire Green Digital Academy schemes, to upskilling staff through North East Wales Innovation and Skills Network, read to find out more about the exciting UKSPF-supported projects undertaken across the county.

[Click to read more](#) ➤



# Flintshire tourism firms cut costs with clean energy boost

Managed by social enterprise Cadwyn Clwyd, the Supporting Tourism Business and Sector Key Fund has facilitated Haulfryn Caravan Park and the Cross Foxes pub in Nannerch in making the switch to solar power.

The Cross Foxes has installed 20 photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the building along with two battery banks, allowing the historic pub to access up to 800kwh of electricity annually.

Similarly, the founders and owners of Holywell-based Haulfryn Caravan Park have implemented 49 new PVs on its shower and toilet facilities block, which produce up to 18,700kwh per year.

**Cross Foxes owner Rebecca Gomm said:** “We are eager to see the difference the panels will make to our expenses in the long-term and are especially looking forward to the summer months when the new technology will store plenty of energy for future use.”

Designed to support small and micro enterprises to introduce innovative new products, processes, and carbon-minimising technologies, Cadwyn Clwyd company manager Lowri Owain believes the scheme has delivered upon its promise.





# People and skills

## Programme helps Flintshire youngster swap crime for the construction site

A 17-year-old from Flintshire who was criminally exploited says he is getting his life back on track thanks to a key programme being run in the county.

Following a referral to Action for Children’s criminal exploitation intervention service, for those at risk of involvement with serious organised crime, he has secured employment, enrolled at college, and is enjoying a healthier relationship with himself and his family.

**He said:** “The service co-ordinator at Action for Children went above and beyond. For example, he helped my sister get a job, too. He’s made a huge difference to this family.”

That’s just one success story for Action for Children, one of the strands within Project 11, which received support from the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to benefit young people aged 11+ at risk of exploitation and crime.

Flintshire County Council’s Youth Justice Services led the Project 11 scheme, with Action for Children delivering the criminal exploitation intervention service.

Stats show 100% of participants improved their connection with education, training or employment, while 89% reduced their involvement, or risk of involvement, in serious organised crime.

**The service co-ordinator at Action for Children added:** “Many of the positive outcomes would not have been achieved without securing UKSPF funding.”

## Radical scheme is making the grade when it comes to at-risk Flintshire pupils

At-risk Flintshire pupils have reported a better attitude towards being in school following a hands-on and radical scheme that is having a positive impact on high schools throughout the county.

LEAP (learn, explore, achieve, perform) benefited 80 learners identified as at risk of becoming NEET – not in education, employment, or training.

Schools defer pupils identified as going down the wrong path that could ultimately lead to exclusion, for reasons including truancy, poor social interaction with peers, and attitudes towards teachers.

LEAP partnered with peer-led organisation Intuitive Thinking Skills, a specialist in attitude and behaviour change, to engage with learners from 10 schools in the region.

**Dan Larkin, LEAP project manager, said:** “The feedback from pupils and schools has been hugely positive, with the youngsters reporting feeling more confident and having an ability to communicate better.”

**Neil, deputy regional manager at Intuitive Thinking Skills, said:** “It is about deciding now to set the foundations and look at the future with a different point of view.”

## Local talent supported into employment

Learn how social mobility charity WeMindTheGap has utilised UKSPF to transform the lives of Flintshire youngsters through its WeGrow project.





# Count us in: Flintshire locals see confidence multiplied through maths programme

“Fun, friendly – maths without fear!”

This is just one piece of feedback received from participants of Flintshire County Council’s Strength in Numbers project, a scheme that successfully engaged with local community members to improve their numeracy and maths skills.

From parents wanting to support their children’s learning to those who wish to gain confidence in the workplace or secure a qualification, Strength in Numbers worked alongside several partners as well as primary schools to deliver practical support across the region.

Comprising of 22 programmes, the project encouraged residents to participate in a wide range of activities that embed numeracy including cooking, gardening and woodwork across community-based settings and outdoor spaces across Flintshire.

One project delivering positive outcomes is the Strength in Numbers parent programme, which has seen more than 170 people across 10 schools take part.

The project, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), also enabled members to gain a level two functional maths qualification, further upskilling Flintshire’s residents.

Another successful programme was Grub Hub, which aimed to enhance participants’ numeracy skills through cooking.

Those who attended sessions developed their maths abilities by weighing ingredients when preparing food, practising budgeting, and amending recipes.

## Further stories

With Supportive Steps delivering mental health support to students, Multiply enhancing numeracy skills, and Employer Skills North Wales equipping staff with training, read more to find out how UPSPF has helped create a more resilient Flintshire.

[Click to read more](#)



# Flintshire scheme sees single mum overcome barriers to secure her dream job

Vicky Roberts landed a dream job and improved her mental wellbeing after successfully breaking down the barriers around disabilities thanks to crucial support from Working Sense.

The Centre of Sign-Sight-Sound’s Working Sense programme, funded by Flintshire’s allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, helped those with disabilities, health issues, or a sensory loss up-skill and explore employment opportunities.

Despite having qualifications in childcare as well as food and hygiene, the single mum had struggled to enter the world of work and suffered from poor mental health due to difficulties communicating after being born deaf.

The project provided Vicky with a dedicated employment advisor and wellbeing officer, helping to build her confidence, improve her CV, and register her with an employment agency.

**Vicky Roberts said:** “Before joining the scheme, I was unsure where or how to begin searching for jobs, however, with the support of Working Sense, I have been able to realise my full potential in a role I love.”



## Core Values

- Respect, to treat everyone with
- Aspire, to encourage high exp
- Inclusive, to meet the varying n
- Secure, to nurture a caring welc
- Expectation, to maintain the hig



## Measured impact: project results & local benefits



1,549 - Volunteering roles created following support



14,890 - People with an improved perception of facilities/amenities



6,073 - Increased users of upgraded facilities/amenities



858 - People reporting improved employability



1,513 - Adults participating in maths qualifications



2,693 - People in education/training following support



729 - Neighbourhood improvements undertaken



429 - Enterprises adopting new to the firm technologies or processes