



PRESS RELEASE

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Unicom Awards £1500 to Community Groups in Newcastle

Small business telecoms and utilities provider, Unicom, has awarded three community charities, based in Newcastle, £1500 of much needed funding.

The three charities to benefit from the funding are Fenham Association of Residents, YMCA North Tyneside and Dunston Drop-In CIO.

The funding has been awarded through Unicom's Community Support Scheme. The Scheme provides grants of up to £500 to local community groups and charities to support projects that aim to improve the quality of life for local residents. The scheme is Unicom's way of giving back to the communities in which its regional offices are housed.

Having an office based in Newcastle, Unicom recently re-launched the scheme in the area and after receiving many applications has awarded the three very worthy charities the maximum funding available.

The first charity to be awarded was Fenham Association of Residents, a community group providing learning and recreational activities to a disadvantaged community living on a low income. They will be running a new session in the summer of 2014 for children with learning difficulties, for which the funding will be used to buy sensory equipment, engaging the children and allowing them to have fun in a way that suits their needs.

The second charity to be awarded was YMCA North Tyneside. The charity provides a wide range of programmes and services across all age groups, focusing on creating a community in which people belong, contribute and thrive. YMCA North Tyneside are currently converting part of their premises into supported flats for vulnerable 18 – 25 year olds, for which the funding will be used to buy kitchen equipment.

The third charity to be awarded the funding was the Dunston Drop-In CIO. A small charity based in Dunston, they support young people age 10-19 that are not in education, employment or training. They provide a range of educational, social and leisure activities and will be using the funding to run a gardening project over the school holidays.

To find out more about all three charities and Unicom's Community Support Scheme please visit www.switchingon.com/company/community-support-scheme.

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Notes to Editors

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About Unicom

Unicom, a trading name of Universal Utilities Ltd, is a telecommunications service provider specialising in the small business market. It currently provides telecom, broadband, mobile and gas and electricity services to over 100,000 small businesses throughout the UK. Unicom has an annual turnover of £70m, and employs over 500 people across 12 regional offices situated around the UK with its Head Office based in Manchester.

In 2009 Unicom became ISO 9001:2008 certified, as well as being awarded the Customer Service Excellence, Investors in People, Customer First and Carbon Trust certifications by independent assessors, all of which have been maintained up to date.

Details of the Community Support Scheme

- The scheme first started back in 2009 as a way for Unicom to recognise and reward community groups providing services that improve the quality of life for residents close to its regional offices.
- The Unicom Community Support Scheme grants financial awards to applicants it believes will truly benefit from and that truly make an impact in the local community.
- Applications must be from a group or organisation and not an individual.
- Projects typically awarded are those providing a long term benefit to the community in which they operate. One off events are not usually considered.
- Typical awards will be between £100 and £500.
- Including sport, environmental and youth developments.
- All applications are considered by a panel which meets twice yearly in May and November and priority will be given to first time applications ensuring all requests are dealt with fairly and equally.

For case studies and information on who has previously been awarded through the Community Support Scheme www.switchingon.com/company/community-support-scheme