

## **Gratitude and Continued Support for Our Community Work (ACE Partnership) with a potential of funding of £1000 for a Further 3 years 25/26 onwards**

On behalf of our entire organization, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Llantilio Pertholey for the invaluable financial and moral support you have provided over the years. Your assistance has been instrumental in our ability to serve the community, and without it, we would undoubtedly struggle to continue our work.

As you are aware, Without passing political criticism we know that there is already panic amongst our clients, the challenges our community faces are growing. With the onset of winter, there is an increasing sense of concern among our clients, driven by several factors:

- The raising of the energy cap
- Rising energy prices
- The loss of the heating allowance
- Increased fuel duty and its wide-ranging impacts, such as higher food prices
- The proposed increase in Council Tax
- The elimination of the cost-of-living payment
- Mandatory school uniforms, especially blazers for Year 5 students at KHS

These challenges will undoubtedly lead to significant hardship for a broader section of our community. In response, our organization remains committed to offering crucial support:

1. **Providing Direct Advice:** We guide clients to the appropriate services and provide more in-depth advice where needed.
2. **Food Assistance:** We offer basic food packages and food bank vouchers to those in need.
3. **Clothing and Household Support:** We help people obtain clothing, school uniforms, footwear, bedding, and basic household items, which are increasingly in demand as disposable incomes shrink.
4. **Emotional Support:** We offer a listening ear, a shoulder to lean on, and a comforting cup of tea—small gestures that make a big difference.
5. **Access to Technology:** Many of our clients lack internet access, a phone line, or even a basic mobile phone. We help by making calls on their behalf and assisting with online applications, ensuring they do not miss out on benefits or face penalties due to missed deadlines.
6. **Social Interaction:** Our centre provides a space for social interaction, where people can drop in for a chat and a cup of tea, reducing feelings of isolation.
7. **Affordable Outings:** Thanks to grants and donations, we organize affordable coach trips—two in the summer and one in the winter, with a potential second winter trip—benefiting over 171 people this year.
8. **Monmouthshire's 'Chat with Flo' Project:** We are proud participants in this initiative, offering sustainable and reusable period products to our community. To date, we have

distributed over 500 disposable items and 150 reusable products, helping to restore dignity to those who otherwise might resort to using household items as substitutes.

We are requesting financial support to partially cover wages and utility bills. While we continue to seek core funding and small grants, we also generate income by selling higher-quality donated items, hosting raffles, and redistributing all proceeds back into the community through various projects.

Although we may not be highly visible, those in need find us—primarily through word of mouth—because we are known for our non-judgmental and supportive approach. We believe our presence is essential for the well-being and stability of the community, and we are committed to continuing our work.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support

Dec 2024