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# NEWS RELEASE

## Grassroots Grants Starts to Sow its Seeds in Warrington

February 2009 – Over £31,000 has been awarded to the Warrington community from the Grassroots Grants scheme since its launch in September 2008. Warrington Council for Voluntary Service is one of the 67 funders selected across England to distribute the Government's groundbreaking Grassroots Grants to small, local community and voluntary groups.

Local community groups with annual incomes below £20,000 can apply for a grant of £250 to £5000 in a straightforward and easy way; groups such as Warrington Open Door at Christmas, Shooting Stars Dance Drama Group and the Older People's Forum are just some of the 24 organisations that have benefited from the scheme so far.

"Warrington is full of small groups and individuals who work tirelessly to tackle local problems and this fund is dedicated to supporting their efforts" says Nigel Bacon, Chief Executive of Warrington Council for Voluntary Service. "Grassroots Grants is exciting as it provides help direct to community groups now and into the future. That is why we are urging local leaders, businesses and individuals to make an investment in the future of their community by contributing to the Warrington Grassroots Endowment Fund."

Every penny that goes into the fund will return a much greater value, for example, a £1000 will receive match funding from the Government and then we can also claim Gift Aid making that £1000 worth £2560 to the fund. The fund will allow us to continue the Grassroots Grant for many years to come.

Alf Clemo, spokesperson for the Older People's Forum said, "The monies we have received from the Grassroots Grants is allowing us to make changes to our meeting venue to make access better to the building, especially those with disabilities. We are really grateful for the support given."

John Campbell, spokesperson for Warrington Open Door at Christmas added, "The support given by the Grassroots Grant was invaluable this year, especially with the unforeseen



extreme weather we had, we were able to provide a wide range of services to our homeless community at a difficult time of year.”

Grassroots Grant aims to make a real and immediate difference to the Warrington community. If you wish to make an application or to make a contribution then please contact Warrington Council for Voluntary Service on 01925 246880 or visit [www.warringtoncvs.org.uk](http://www.warringtoncvs.org.uk)

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387 WORDS

## NOTE TO EDITORS

### **About Warrington Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)**

Warrington CVS has existed for nearly 100 years. During that time Warrington Council for Voluntary Service has developed and adapted to serve the needs and promote the work of the voluntary sector in Warrington and its surrounding areas. Warrington CVS offers a range of help, support and services to local community and voluntary groups to enable them to carry out their work achieve their aims and become more effective.

### **About Warrington Grassroots Endowment Fund**

In Summer 2008 Warrington CVS was chosen to launch the Grassroots Grants fund in Warrington and the local area. This is Government money to provide small grants to small and local voluntary, community and faith groups.

Community and voluntary groups from Warrington with an income of £20k or less a year are invited to apply for up to £5k over 3 years. Applications are assessed by an independent local panel and grants are awarded based on the information provided in the application.

The programme has 2 elements, a small Grants Fund for applications between £250 and £5000 and an endowment scheme. Warrington CVS is actively working to set-up an endowment scheme through approaching businesses and individuals within the community to donate and invest to ensure that the award grants continues post-2011.

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