**For immediate release: [Monday 3rd July, 2023]**

**[Joe Bloggs] celebrates after receiving [£50k] of National Lottery funding to [help local children with disabilities]**

Local community group, [Joe Bloggs], is today celebrating after being awarded [almost £50,000] in National Lottery funding to support its work [with children living with disabilities]. The group, based in [Essex Road in Chelmsford], will use the money to [run more activities for local children and to provide further support sessions for their parents].

[Joe Bloggs] has been running since [2013] and is staffed by [12 volunteers]. It was founded by [Annie Body] after [she realised that the community was struggling to provide support to local families and their children].

The group now [runs five sessions a week, attended by 50 local children, where they join in with activities such as painting, acting, singing and playing games. The sessions help the children to make friends, while learning new skills and having fun. While enjoyable, the children are also gaining greater confidence, self-belief and important collaboration skills].

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, will see [these sessions expanded to seven a week. This means that the number of children able to participate will increase to 70].

At the same time, the group will be able to [press on with plans to introduce support sessions for the children’s parents. These will help them to build relationships with others experiencing the same challenges and hopefully enable them to develop their own support network].

**[Annie Body, founder of Joe Bloggs], says:** “We’re delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Now, thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to [press on with our plans to broaden the range of opportunities available to local children with disabilities and their parents]. This is important because it [helps both the children and the parents to build relationships with others facing similar challenges and to create their own supportive circles of friends and peers].”

**[Some Body, volunteer at Joe Bloggs], says:** “*Insert suitable quote here*…”

The National Lottery Community Fund recently launched its new strategy, [‘It starts with community’](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/about/our-strategy), which will underpin its efforts to distribute at least £4 billion of National Lottery funding by 2030.

As part of this, the funder has four key missions, which are to support communities to come together, be environmentally sustainable, help children and young people thrive and enable people to live healthier lives.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million a week for good causes across the UK. Thanks to them, last year The National Lottery Community Fund was able to distribute over half a billion pounds (£615.4 million) of life-changing funding to communities.

To find out more visit [www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk](http://www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk)

**Ends**

**Contact**

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Pictures are available upon request.

**Notes to Editors:**

**About The National Lottery Community Fund**

We are the largest non-statutory community funder in the UK – community is at the heart of our purpose, vision and name.

We support activities that create resilient communities that are more inclusive and environmentally sustainable and that will strengthen society and improve lives across the UK.

We’re proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and to work closely with government to distribute vital grants and funding from key Government programmes and initiatives.

As well as responding to what communities tell us is important to them, our funding is focused on four key missions, supporting communities to:

1. Come together

2. Be environmentally sustainable

3. Help children and young people thrive

4. Enable people to live healthier lives.

Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, we distribute around £500 million a year through 10,000+ grants and plan to invest over £4 billion of funding into communities by 2030. We’re privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million each week for good causes throughout the UK. Since The National Lottery began in 1994, £47 billion has been raised and more than 670,000 individual grants have been made across the UK - the equivalent of around 240 National Lottery grants in every UK postcode district.

[Website](http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/) │[Twitter](https://twitter.com/TNLComFund) │[Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/TNLCommunityFund) │[Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/TNLCommunityFund)