



Perspective helps six local projects during Covid

Perspective Financial Group Ltd (Perspective), the leading national financial planning firm, is delighted to announce it has assisted six local projects near its network of offices during Covid.

The Group has donated 40 reconditioned high spec laptops and desktops to four projects and raised over £30,000 for two charities. This has enabled charities and community organisations aimed at youth, mental health, disability and wellness to navigate the challenges of Covid.

The surplus IT kit arose from Perspective's on-going investment in new technology including a major upgrade during 2021, when the Group's systems were moved to a Cloud-based approach delivering the highest levels of client data security.

The laptops and desktops were securely data-erased to HMG Infosec 5 Enhanced standard by a specialist firm, Laptops4Learning, who also refurbished the items as required and loaded the latest software so the kit could be used immediately. Through this process nothing has gone to landfill.

1. Chorley Healey Scout Group, Lancashire

Chorley Healey Scout Group serves one of the most deprived communities in the North West and has as its President Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP, Speaker of the House of Commons. Their Scout Hut is near Perspective's Head Office and advisory office in the town. Bryan Cocker, Assistant Scout Leader was genuinely thrilled with the donation:

"We can't thank you enough. This has been a game changer as it opens up a whole new world of digital skills and experiences for our Scouts, including taking part in international Jamborees on-line."

"Several Scouts were self-isolating due to Covid. Loaning them laptops to assist with home schooling has meant a great deal to them and their families. As a digital hub for other Scout groups this is already having an impact at District, County and National level too. We are very grateful."

2. WatchUsGrow, Chorley & Leyland, Lancashire

WatchUsGrow offers help to people living in Chorley and Leyland suffering from issues with substance misuse, mental health, deprivation, isolation and societal marginalisation. It runs a community café in the heart of Chorley which is open to all members of the community who can benefit from free food and the opportunity to socialise. Andrea Horrocks of WatchUsGrow said:

"Our members have diverse personal histories of overcoming or managing multiple issues, with many of them successfully implementing lasting positive behavioural change enabling them to reintegrate and become active members of the wider community again. Covid has made this more challenging."

"Your generous donation has been a huge help, enabling our volunteers to provide more one-on-one support including digital skill building activities that actively assist people to unlock their potential."

3. Mind and Sole, Alnwick, Northumberland

Mind and Sole encourages people living with mental health issues to get outside and take part in gentle exercise including walking and wild swimming in the beautiful Northumbrian countryside and coastline. These regular activities encourage people to eat more healthily, keep within a routine and sleep better, all assisting them with the road to recovery.

Based in Alnwick, near Perspective's largest office in Newcastle upon Tyne with 18 advisers and 60 staff, Mind and Sole was set up by Chrissy Smith in 2017. Last year she leased premises in the centre of Alnwick to give space to set up a digital skill training facility, run social activities and provide one-on-one support. Chrissy Smith, founder of Mind and Sole said:

"Covid has increased the demand for what we do in our local community. This very generous and timely donation from Perspective will help us expand the range of services we offer including building people's digital skills. Thank you."

4. Alnwick Support Group, The Compassionate Friends, North Northumberland

After losing her son Dylan aged 33 from accidental drowning in Oxford five years ago, Maggie Pinsent was moved to start a new support group for bereaved parents in her new local area of Northumberland.

She and her husband arrived in North Northumberland in 2019 just prior to Covid and, while Zoom meetings organised through The Compassionate Friends (TCF), a charity for bereaved parents run by bereaved parents, have provided an invaluable mechanism for keeping in touch with others, it became clear that a face-to-face group was also necessary for the northern area of the county. The closest group to Maggie, and where she gets her support, is in Hexham a round trip of almost 70 miles.

The new support group will be based at Mind and Sole's premises in Alnwick, with sessions running monthly from February 2022 facilitated by Maggie who said:

"Meeting other bereaved parents, being able to talk with others who truly understand, is an essential part of our bereavement journey. I am so grateful to Perspective for this practical and generous help."

5. Pathways4All, Newcastle upon Tyne

Perspective has been a close supporter of Pathways4All for many years. As a parent-led charity, it provides play and leisure services for disabled children and young people, supporting them and their families across Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Country Durham, Teesside and Cumbria.

At their tenth annual fundraising ball in 2021, Perspective's Chief Executive Ian Wilkinson and his guests raised over £25k, almost half the total on the night. Lynn McManus, founder said:

"Ian's support at the 2021 ball, like in many previous years, has made such a massive difference to all the families that attend our centre, now over a thousand! I simply can't thank Perspective enough for their continued support and the wonderful way in which they champion our charity."

6. The Movement Centre, Oswestry, Shropshire

The Movement Centre provides specialist treatment supporting children living with movement disabilities. It is the only UK provider of Targeted Training therapy which enables children to develop new skills and become far more independent, having a huge impact on their life and those of their family and friends. As a specialist therapy, it sits outside of the remit for standard NHS funding.

Perspective's Oswestry office raised a further £6,000 in 2021 through a golf day and other events. Curtis Langley, Fundraising & Marketing Officer of the Movement Centre said:

"Perspective's support over several years has been amazing enabling us to raise over £200,000 to help support families accessing our services. Our trustees made the decision in 2021 to reduce the cost to our families, meaning we now contribute 75% towards the cost of treatment. We are aiming to ultimately make treatment completely free for all families."

Sue Gowling of Laptops4Learning said:

"Laptops4Learning is delighted to have been able to facilitate Perspective's generous donation of laptops and desktops to these very worthy local causes. We work to tackle digital inequality through the repair and reuse of surplus technology, bringing about social good while reducing the negative impact on our environment."

"Digital inequality blights the life-chances of so many people. We applaud Perspective's decision to make a difference, whilst also being environmentally responsible at this time of climate emergency."

Ian Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer of Perspective said: "The communities around our national network of local offices matter a great deal to both our clients and staff. Hence, supporting these amazing initiatives is fundamental to our success, as well as being the right thing to do for the communities and the environment. It's great that none of our IT kit has gone to landfill because of this initiative.

"We firmly believe clients value the quality of advice and the continuity of service delivered by our local and long-established offices, many of which were founded over 30 years ago. Combined with the strength and support of a national group, we think this proposition is very attractive for clients.

"The eight acquisitions we completed in 2021 and the strong pipeline set to complete in the first half of 2022 means we will soon be adding further offices across the UK. We congratulate and wish great success to all the projects we have supported."

For further information please contact:

Ian Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer, Tel: 0161 244 9759 or Email: ian.wilkinson@pfgl.co.uk

David Hesketh, Chief Financial Officer, Tel: 0161 244 9759 or Email david.hesketh@pfgl.co.uk

Charles Penn, Group Head of Marketing, Tel: 07799 821904 or Email: charles.penn@pfgl.co.uk

For further information visit www.pfgl.co.uk or connect on **social media – LinkedIn and Twitter**.