

“We raise our own funds through our various work and provide free access to many small operations so that our rural community can have access locally to such services as opposed to having to travel, which is a barrier to such things for many of our residents.”

Tony Gatehouse
Centre manager

The Old Co-op Community Building

Project:

Community hobby suite

Subject:

Facilities and building improvements

Location:

Loftus, Redcar and Cleveland

Overview:

The Co-Op building houses a community hub charity which provides people with access to services such as a food bank centre, a drug and alcohol clinic, mental health support groups, healthy heart, lung and weight management projects, employment support and training services, new start up business support, AGE UK advice centre, credit and savings union, a charity shop, community cafe, hobby groups, chat club and other community organisations and neighbourhood action partnerships.

Due to a combination of difficult high access and adverse weather over winter, the roof, plaster and brickwork was in a state of disrepair which had also affected the main entrance lobby. Consequently the hobby suite, which provides sewing and quilting classes, was unable to run for its 50 regular attendees.

£2,700 was awarded to the charity to fund roof and internal repairs to the front of the building. The funding enabled the group to reopen the hobby suite and continue supporting 50 individuals each week to obtain skills and combat social isolation. The project has also helped to improve access for the hundreds of people who use the charity shop and community cafe.

