



Lincolnshire Co-op
Stanley Bett House
15-23 Tentercroft Street
Lincoln
LN5 7DB
www.lincolnshire.coop

Communications
07785 298 104
Jessica.Phillips@lincolnshire.coop

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community set to raise thousands for local wellbeing causes

225 local groups and charities dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of communities across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and South Yorkshire are being supported through Lincolnshire Co-op's **Community Champions** scheme.

Until **Saturday 6th March 2027**, a donation will be made every time members shop with their dividend card, and customers can donate spare change into collection points.

Colleagues will also be running fundraising activities and local communities are being encouraged to support these initiatives by volunteering or donating.

Lincoln City Gymnastics Club, based at Newark Road Industrial Estate in Lincoln, is one of the local groups benefitting from additional funds.

The club, that has been running since 1984, now has over 350 members and runs training sessions for all abilities and ages, as well as holiday clubs for school children.

Ten years ago, the club moved from a small sports hall to its current premises, which has been renovated through fundraising from the coaches, parents and the local community.

Melissa Clough, Lincoln City Gymnastics Head Coach, said: *“As a not-for-profit club, we've raised money for all the equipment our gymnasts train on. As our club continues to grow, we will need additional high-quality equipment.*

"We applied to become Community Champions because our current sprung floor is outdated and no longer meets competition standard, and replacing this would give our gymnasts a safer, more effective training environment.

"Lincolnshire Co-op's support will have a great impact on our club, enabling us to provide the facilities and equipment our gymnasts need to develop their skills and be ready to compete."

During the last local groups campaign from September 2025 to March 2026, **£181,928** was shared between 215 local good causes and charities.

Danielle Lowther, Senior Community Co-ordinator at Lincolnshire Co-op, said: *“At the heart of every community are groups that bring local people together to help them to live happier and healthier lives. From sports clubs giving young people confidence or community halls tackling loneliness, these groups are making a lasting difference.*

“We're incredibly proud to not only support groups with donations but also raise awareness so that even more people can benefit from the services they provide. Together, we can help groups continue their vital work to support the wellbeing of local people.”

Ends

For more information contact:

Jess Phillips, Communications Co-ordinator

07785 298 104

Jessica.Phillips@lincolnshire.coop

CONTACT DETAILS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Notes to editors:

1. **Lincolnshire Co-op** is an independent co-operative society. Its purpose is to bring together ideas, energy and resources to make life better in communities. It has around 300,000 members and 2,900 local colleagues in Lincolnshire and the surrounding counties and an elected board of directors who oversee the business. The society provides **valued services** and supports the **local economy** from outlets across its trading area including food stores, filling stations, post offices, travel branches, funeral homes, a florist, a crematorium and community libraries. It also cares for people's **health and wellbeing** through its pharmacies and support for a network of wellbeing walks. Local good causes benefit through its Community Champions scheme and together, colleagues and members also look after the **local environment** through volunteering.

As well as its trading outlets, Lincolnshire Co-op owns properties, from flats and houses to commercial premises. The society brings land and buildings back into use to create attractive environments. With Lincolnshire Co-op as landlord, rents stay local and are invested in schemes that benefit the community.