

Cabinet Report - Funding to Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Organisations

2021/22

Appendix 1 – VCS Infrastructure Support Organisations Funded - Summary of Achievements 2021/22.

Please note the following information has been taken from the monitoring reports returned by the organisations below.

	Protecting the most vulnerable in our community	Actively seeking to prevent homelessness	Tackling issues such as childhood obesity and lack of exercise	Empowering and supporting local volunteers and organisations
Citizens Advice - North East Derbyshire	67% of our clients from North East Derbyshire had a disability or long term health condition. Our Adviceline phone number is a freephone number for use and we have a range of face to face provision across the district to enable vulnerable clients to access advice. During lockdown we found that the number of vulnerable clients decreased but with the return to face to face this proportion has increased to pre-pandemic levels.	By providing advice and options for clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness we are able to prevent homelessness, for example by advising them of their right to remain in the property until a landlord is granted an eviction order or supporting a client to set up a payment plan to a landlord in order to prevent possession action. We also signpost to relevant housing providers, NEDDC and Derbyshire Law centre where appropriate.	n/a	Although not directly mentioned in the returned monitoring submission, CANED rely on a network volunteers who undertake roles such as advisors, social media volunteers, trustees or engage with social policy work.
Derbyshire Law Centre	We have supported North East Derbyshire District Council through advising	We also have supported the Council by preventing homelessness for up to 177	n/a	We continue to support the VCS sector through:

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	and assisting 1394 vulnerable residents in North East Derbyshire district.	housing clients and 118 debt clients living in North East Derbyshire.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referrals between agencies and Councils - Giving talks - Sitting on VCS boards such as The Elm Foundation and Derbyshire Unemployed Workers' centres. <p>We are reviewing our organisational membership to ensure that we are reaching all Equality Act groups and organisations.</p>
Links CVS	The Commissioner's Vulnerability Fund, a fund established by the Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire was administered by Links to the end of September. Many groups based in NED applied and were successful for grants totalling £23,757.75. We continued to work with Derbyshire Voluntary Action (DVA) and The Volunteer Centre (VC) to co-ordinate and disseminate information about food banks, food	While we don't directly support homeless people we do support Pathways, Rykneld Housing, Church on the Bus, Derbyshire Law Centre, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres', New Hope Community Church to deliver their services.	We continue to work with sports groups, walking groups and community groups that provide exercise classes. We worked with the Active Partners Trust to help groups to apply for grants based on long term healthy activities. We support organisations working with children through the Children & Young People's Wellbeing.	<p>Empowering and supporting local volunteers and organisations is an essential function of Links. Many of the local groups that Links work with are both volunteers led and community based. Moreover, Links has a very positive working relationship with Chesterfield Volunteer Centre. As a result, Links strongly believe it is helping the Council to fulfil this priority by providing the ongoing information, advice and support to these local groups.</p> <p>Covid: In partnership with DVA, VC and several mutual aid groups we have kept up-to-date a directory of</p>

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	delivery and support for people who were self-isolating or shielding.			<p>help available at a neighbourhood level. This is available to anyone via the internet/social media. It has been invaluable in signposting individuals to the help they need.</p> <p>We have supported groups with risk assessments to enable them to reopen safely and provide them with up-to-date information and guidance on Covid.</p>
Volunteer Centre	<p>Our shopping service closed as the lockdown ended but we continued to deliver the service for those we decided were in needed of the most help. Out of 101 referrals into our Home From Hospital project, 71 lived in the North East Derbyshire locality.</p> <p>The number of beneficiaries give an indication of the work carried out in North East Derbyshire over the last financial year.</p>	<p>This is not something we do consciously. However, we do refer people to the relevant organisations in regard to their homelessness or rough sleeping. We can also work with individuals who are looking to move away from that lifestyle and seek skills that might move them towards employability.</p>	<p>Once again this is not something we would do directly. However, this year we have worked closely with Chesterfield Cricket Club who wish to engage with groups across the area helping people to access cricket as a leisure activity. Chesterfield Cricket Club are a large concern and do run a side which plays its home games in North East Derbyshire. With our assistance they are targeting local groups in a bid to engage more</p>	<p>We have offered support to local organisations on 1,885 occasions during the last financial year, we expect this figure to rise dramatically over the next year.</p> <p>Over the year we were contacted by 340 potential volunteers looking for information and guidance in relation to volunteering. It has been particularly difficult to break these down into area as all too often volunteers, especially those contacting us by email, have not given us a definite location. This has been a huge improvement on last year, obviously the easing of lockdown has played a significant part in this.</p>

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			young people and to also start a 'Walking Cricket' initiative. The Volunteer Centre are helping them with funding and development concerning this project.	
Rural Action Derbyshire	The Rural Hardship Fund has received 96 applications since its inception in September 2020, 81 of which were received in the 2021/22 financial year. The fund has paid out £17,710.70 to applicants. We have also been able to make onward referrals to other agencies such as SSAFA the Armed Forces charity, and Marches Energy for support with energy debt. Feeding Derbyshire has had another busy and successful year, which has seen the consolidation of the work started during the first year of Covid-19. Notable developments	n/a	The Holiday Activities and Food programme provided activities and food to children during the summer holidays, half term breaks and Christmas. We applied for funding on behalf of 4 groups based in North East Derbyshire providing adequate nutrition and fun activities to children.	Community Buildings Covid lockdown concerns continued to dominate this year, as the Omicron variant extended restrictions into early 2022. ACRE provided regular updates, vital in helping halls to comply with current CV-19 restrictions. The most effective way to share information: 15 E-bulletins, RAD's website and 7 virtual Coffee Mornings. Despite Omicron restrictions reducing halls' bookings/income, RAD helped halls to access the OHL Grant to assist their long-term sustainability 9 halls benefited from free consultancy funded by the Foundation Derbyshire Grant (April-Sept). We delivered RAD's first online Conference over 3 days – Restart, Refresh, Recover. Feedback from the 60 delegates was very positive.

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	<p>include piloting the first phase of community pantries, which offer food banks resources and advice to introduce a more sustainable model of affordable food support to their service users. Since April 2021 we have also expanded our Healthy Holiday programme thanks to the HAF funding secured from Derbyshire County Council (DCC), this has given the community and volunteer led clubs some stability during the last 12 months, and the opportunity to learn from each other through networking and development sessions.</p> <p>We have recruited and supported 8 Community Pantries within 12 months of launching the first pilot in May 2021, which means we are ahead of the two-</p>			

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	<p>year project lifetime target of 12. Monthly monitoring confirms that local needs are significant because uptake has exceeded expectation, for example 4 pilot pantries have 720 household registered for support, with an average of 200 shoppers weekly. Initial information shows savings per shop range from £15-50.</p> <p>The aim of The Willow Project is to raise awareness about rural domestic abuse. We have trained over 100 people. Feedback received has been 100% positive with attendees saying that it was incredibly informative, thought provoking, well presented and balanced along with further praise for The Willows, the short film that was produced to highlight the issues of</p>			

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	coercion and control			