

CVS



Annual Partnership Report January 2022



Annual Partnership Report Macclesfield Town Council

1st February 2021 to 31st January 2022

In February 2021 Macclesfield Town Council funded a new project to facilitate and support the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Macclesfield and to support the Town Council develop its internal volunteering and grants programme.

CVS Cheshire East was selected as the partner in this project with a Service Level Agreement for the period February 1st 2021 to 31st January 2022. Within this it was agreed CVS would:

- 1** Support Macclesfield groups with their development and income generation and income diversification.
- 2** Create a bank of Volunteers to work with the Town Council and associated groups in the Community e.g. litter pickers and volunteering opportunities with various community projects and events in the Town.
- 3** Create an online Community for Macclesfield, both for volunteers and for Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCFS) organisations.
- 4.** Support the Town Council Grants programmes to organisations that deliver services in Macclesfield and provide assistance to those organisations.
- 5** Assist VCF organisations to become more environmentally sustainable.

The following information outlines the work that CVS Cheshire East has undertaken with the Council and the VCFS in Macclesfield, with the aim of benefiting the wider community.

1 Supporting Macclesfield groups with their development and income generation and income diversification

CVS Group Development Officer Aoife Middlemass worked with the Town Council to provide additional support to local community groups and organisations, in terms of funding and general development. Seven organisations were signposted by the Council for specific support:

St. Barnabas Church

The installation of solar panels. This project has been put on hold for the present.

Knowsley Road Allotment

Explored the option of becoming an allotment association but after a zoom meeting and on-site meeting, the group decided they wanted to remain under Macclesfield Town Council control.

Grow Macclesfield

With CVS support, Grow Macclesfield has been constituted, got public liability insurance and is in the process of putting policies in place. They are also in the process of setting up a bank account.

One Project

This organisation was a part of Macclesfield Grow but split away and is now constituted in its own right as a CIC and has put policies in place. It is also in the process of setting up a bank account.

Macclesfield Civic Society

Received support with their safeguarding policy

Morton Hall Community Centre

Trustees are warning of centre closure this summer if more trustees and volunteer support is not put in place. CVS is working with the Chair of trustees, Macclesfield Town Council and Cheshire East Council to try and find a solution.

Macclesfield Harriers

CVS was asked to support the group with funding for their running track and a meeting is being held in February.

2 Create a bank of Volunteers to work with the Town Council and associated groups in the Community

Macclesfield Town Council has now active opportunities advertised for both events and environmental volunteers. CVS supported the Council's Community and Events Manager to produce a comprehensive volunteer policy to manage volunteers.

CVS worked with Macclesfield based organisations such as Reach Out and Recover, Macclesfield in May, Barnaby Festival and the New Leaf Programme to promote volunteering and support the recruitment of volunteers into local organisations.

CVS promoted the (CVS Hosted) [Macclesfield VCFS Hub](#) where possible and encouraged organisations and individuals to register their interest on the site to access opportunities.

[24%](#) of the 274 volunteer registrations [were from residents of Macclesfield](#) and [36%](#) of all volunteer registrations [were interested in supporting volunteering within Macclesfield](#).

CVS Cheshire East was also involved with the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Plan, as part of the community response team. The community response element of the plan compiled a list of community spaces available for use and hire, used the [Macclesfield VCFS Hub](#) webpage to encourage more volunteers as well as through face-to-face meetings and generally raised the profile of the voluntary sector in Macclesfield.

CVS held a [charity shop marketing campaign](#) last May in response to a call for more volunteers on re-opening, especially in Macclesfield, and it resulted in more volunteer opportunities being advertised in the town. Volunteer numbers went down quite dramatically over the past two years as a result of the pandemic and community groups are now finding it difficult to replace their volunteers. It is hoped that the easing of restrictions will encourage individuals to come forward again, and CVS has started working with organisations to promote their roles.

3 Create an online Community for Macclesfield both for volunteers and for Voluntary Community and Faith organisations



CVS Cheshire East has started to develop an online Macclesfield VCFS Hub, which can be accessed via the Town Council website.

The hub promotes local organisations and current volunteer opportunities in the area, as well as information about volunteering in general. CVS was working with a company to develop a more feature rich and engaging space for the hub however this unfortunately has been delayed to Spring 2022. As an interim piece the Macclesfield VCFS space has been created on the CVS website.

The Macclesfield VCFS Hub can currently be found at:
www.cvsce.org.uk/macclesfield-vcfs-hub

4 Support the Town Council Grants programmes

CVS reviewed the Council's existing and new community grant policies and application forms and the Council held four community grant panels last year, with a fifth round now in progress. CVS and the Council also held a grant workshop on 19th May to explain the new grants being offered and how CVS will support applicants and recipients. As part of the grant assessment, CVS was sent the applications for comment and all applicants were contacted by CVS with offers of support. Of those contacted seven requested support and are working with CVS.

Grant recipients since February 2021:

March 2021

Macclesfield Parish Scouts - do not require any further assistance at this time.



Completed the external cladding work and accessible fire exit works at the rear of the building

Roenaissance Group – have been supported with governance and volunteer recruitment.

Hope Centre – CVS member and works extensively with Aoife.

East Cheshire Hospice – CVS member and are not in need of support at this time

Macclesfield Pride – have been contacted on several occasions but no response has been received to date.



Enabled us to set up the first ever Pride Hub in the Grosvenor Centre

St Michael's Church - CVS has been working with them to develop their governance policies and volunteer roles.

Tytherington Juniors – have been contacted on several occasions but no response has been received to date.

May 2021

The Core – are members of CVS and are in receipt of support.

Satellites – have been contacted but do not require support.

Macclesfield In October – signposted their manager to another festival organiser for additional volunteers to help with festival. Their governance documents need to be reviewed and they will seek support if necessary.

St Peters Church – church will start its wild flower seed project in February. CVS will liaise with the environmental sub-group within Macclesfield Town Centre redevelopment Group to help distribute seeds and promote the project.

August 2021

Age UK CE – are members of CVS and not in need of basic support.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust – are members of CVS and not in need of support with this project.

Disability Information Bureau – are members of CVS and not in need of basic support.

Just Drop In – are members of CVS and not in need of basic support.

Macclesfield College – contact has been made and a meeting set up for February.



preparation is underway for the community garden, we have purchased some beautiful benches with the grant

Homestart Cheshire – withdrew their application as the organisation closed down.

East Cheshire Eye Society – are members of CVS and not in need of support at this time.

October 2021

Fermain Club – CVS is supporting the Youth Federation in its endeavours to establish a Youth Zone in Macclesfield.

Friends For Leisure – are members of CVS and not in need of support at this time.

Hurdsfield Pheonix FC – CVS is supporting the club with its financial strategy and business plan for developing new football pitches.



Was able to accuire new football kits for the club

Scoop & Scales – are members of CVS and not in need of support at the moment.

January 2022

These grants have been commented on but not yet submitted to the finance committee for consideration:

- **Macclesfield Library**
- **SUSO**
- **Macc Town Ladies FC**
- **Princes Trust**

5 Assist VCFS organisations to become more environmentally sustainable

As part of the Council's environmental strategy, CVS aided the support of an environmental network with VCFS organisations in the town. The Council held an eco-summit on 15th May which was very well-attended and generated lots of ideas.

Several short-term initiatives were drawn up and successfully carried out and the green groups of Macclesfield will now hopefully link up under the umbrella of the Environmental Recovery Group, which CVS will also sit on. There are now several environmental groups established in the town, so it is important that they build up a relationship in order to work together to create a coherent green, environmental community. Britain In Bloom this year will extend to the town's estates which will aid the promotion of the town's green agenda and help to bring different communities together.

CVS and the Town Council have worked very well together on this project and created a successful working partnership that has helped to develop the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in Macclesfield and improve its locality and sense of community. Promoting volunteers and volunteering opportunities, supporting a greener environment and supporting community organisations for the benefit of the people of Macclesfield has been at the heart of this project and will be built upon over the next three years.



www.cvsce.org.uk