

Quarterly Report to Macclesfield Town Council

October 2021

A year-long project to facilitate and support MTC to develop a VCFS network for Macclesfield.

Under the Service Level Agreement between CVS Cheshire East and Macclesfield Town Council for the period Feb 1st 2021 to 31st January 2022, CVS will:

- Support Macclesfield groups with their development and income generation and income diversification.
- 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.
- Create an online Community for Macclesfield both for volunteers and for Voluntary Community and Faith organisations.
- Support the Town Council Grants programmes to organisations that deliver services in Macclesfield and provide assistance to those organisations
- Assist VCF organisations to become more environmentally sustainable.

As part of this agreement, CVS Cheshire East will produce a quarterly summary report on progress made, This summary outlines the work carried out so far under the general headings below during the period Jun-Oct 2021.

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

CVS provides a Group Development Office dedicated to Macclesfield who the Council signposts to groups needing additional support.

This quarter there have been a further three groups signposted to CVS for support Grow Macclesfield—a community gardening project all around Macclesfield, turning unused green spaces into beauty spots with the help of local volunteers. The group wants to incorporate in order to develop its offering of a community allotment on Shaw Street under the name One Project. CVS officer Aoife has met with the group to discuss ways of formalising and also different governance aspects.

Macclesfield Civic Society – the society need a safeguarding policy fit for its activities and membership and CVS have been working to help them produce the policy.

Ashfield Health – is not a VCFS organisation, it is a medical communications agency in Macclesfield which would like to offer its staff to volunteer for one day in November and CVS is advertising this to local charitable organisations.

Continuing support

Roenaissance Project is continuing to be assisted with incorporation and CVS has also been providing more volunteers to their gardening project in Christchurch.

Create an active bank of volunteers to work with Macclesfield Council and associated groups in the community.

Macclesfield Town Council now has active role opportunities advertised for environmental and events volunteers and several enquiries have been made. CVS will be assisting the Community and Events Manager with the initial interview of volunteers in November.

Create an active online Macclesfield community for volunteers and VCFS groups

CVS was developing a volunteer platform with DO-IT Life, an online networking platform for organisations and volunteers, however that has seen a number of delays so instead, CVS is in the process of producing a Macclesfield-dedicated page on their website for volunteers and for local community groups and organisations, which will have a link on the new Macclesfield Town Council website. People will be able to access local volunteer opportunities and organisations through this page.

A robust community grants programme

There has been a further grant round in August this year with six successful grants. Out of those six recipients, four are already members of CVS so are in regular contact and a meeting has been arranged with the other two - St Peter's Church and Macclesfield College - to see what support can be provided by CVS. Applications for the October round of grants have been reviewed by CVS and comments forwarded to the Council.

Environment network established for VCFS organisations

Matt Todd is the lead now on the Environmental subgroup of the Macclesfield Recovery Plan and there are plans for another eco summit which CVS will support, as well as green initiatives to support local organisations and businesses with their environmental agenda.

CVS Cheshire East continues to be involved with the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Group and will also now be a part of the Town Hall subgroup, working with the Town Council, Cheshire East Council and the Town Hall Network to explore ways of making Macclesfield Town Council as assessable as possible to the community.

End of report.