

Support for the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector  
in Macclesfield



**1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

Report for Macclesfield Town Council  
CVS Cheshire East activity in Macclesfield

CVS Cheshire East has been participating in a year-long project to facilitate and support Macclesfield Town Council to facilitate support to the VCFS, develop a VCFS network for Macclesfield and encourage and enable volunteering in Macclesfield.

1. Supporting Macclesfield groups with their development

We have provided 1-2-1 support to 35 organisations. We have delivered support with governance, funding, and volunteering support, these have helped to develop a stronger and more resilient community.

1.1. Governance Support

Some of the organisations assisted are in their infancy, so support has mainly been in terms of governance e.g. writing constitutions, drawing up policies and setting up bank accounts. Other, more established organisations have also needed support such as organisational health checks to ensure they have good governance in place. Twelve groups were supported in this manner - Change Grow Live, Macclesfield Bereavement Support Services, Macclesfield Community Artspace, Pearls of Cheshire, Grow Macclesfield, One Project, Roenaissance Project, Green In the Corner, Macclesfield Civic Society, St Michaels Church, Knowsley Road Allotment.

1.2. Funding Support

Funding opportunities for organisations is also an element of the support provide by CVS. All applicants for Macclesfield Town Council funding were contacted and offered support by CVS, whether it is assistance if their application is rejected, or advice on monitoring and evaluation of their projects.

CVS's work with Macclesfield organisations during the past twelve months has generated £49k of grant funding, enabling group to continue to support residents and to attract new members with new projects.

Some of those organisations are well established, with good governance in place and are existing members of CVS so no additional support was required for example organisations such as Space4Autism and Just Drop-In.

However, the restrictions in place because of the pandemic has meant that many groups had scaled back their activities and few of them were actively seeking funding, preferring to concentrate on online support for the greater part of 2021. It has only been in the last three months or so that have been asking for funding support. For those that were expanding their services, CVS signposted them to various funders and supported them in writing their bids, and although many of them have not have an outcome yet, several have been successful:

- Hope Centre's Slow Cooker Project - £1,581
- Pearls of Cheshire building rent - £7,000
- Reach Out And Recover's Raven's Nook project £38,984
- East Cheshire Mental Health Forum room hire - £750

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- Macclesfield Community Artspace sewing project - £900

2. VCFS project development in Macclesfield – Supporting the wider community  
While supporting organisations to secure funding we have worked to create networks between organisations and encourage and develop partnership working. These partnerships bring benefits to the residents in Macclesfield. Some examples of the partnership work and their impact on the community include:

- Macclesfield Community Artspace was introduced to Pearls of Cheshire (BAME Support organisation) in November and hope to collaborate on projects together this year, which will potentially benefit approximately 60 women from Pearls of Cheshire, plus their children. Due to COVID restrictions being lifted imminently, Artspace is meeting in January to discuss a programme of events to be run this year and has asked CVS for support in identifying and supporting the writing of grant applications. They hope, through these projects to increase participants by 100.
- Reach Out And Recover has just been successful in attracting £39k to run a mental health support project for people coming out of addiction, supporting twenty-five clients. CVS has signposted them to various referral pathways and is working with the organisation to help 17 of its participants into volunteering in Macclesfield.
- Pearls of Cheshire CIC is a new organisation established in Macclesfield to support women and children from BAME background. They received funding from Cheshire East Council to rent a building in Victoria Park and are in the process of setting up a programme of activities and support to include counselling, immigration advice, parenting classes. They support 300 women and children in Cheshire, predominantly in Macclesfield and surrounding areas, with a couple of families in Sandbach and Nantwich. With support from CVS, they have made connections with other organisations with whom they can work eg Artspace, Cheshire East Council's Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Development Lead Advisor, ROAR, MyCWA and Cre8.
- CVS is also supporting Youth Fed in its quest to establish a youth zone in Macclesfield. They received £2,000 for a feasibility study and CVS has given them contacts for local youth organisations such as Cre8, JDI, The Core, Holy Trinity Church. When COVID restrictions lift youth Fed's representative will come to meet these organisations. If a dedicated youth zone is successful, there are approx. 10,000 young people (0-19 years) in Macclesfield who could potentially benefit (12,137 in total in the area stretching out through Prestbury to Newton).
- East Cheshire Mental Health Forum was assisted by CVS in applying for room hire costs to run its meetings and to relocate to a cheaper venue, meaning they could run longer for less money. There are approx. 15 active members who campaign on issues that affect people with mental health illnesses.

There are also organisations who have requested support in identifying funders for projects but have not progressed e.g.

- St Barnabas's project to install solar panelling has stalled because of COVID and lack of personnel to drive it forwards.

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- Roenaissance Project has encountered problems setting up a bank account so cannot apply for funding until that is resolved, as has Grow Macclesfield. These organisations continue to be supported by CVS.

CVS has met with Hurdsfield Pheonix FC, a town council grant recipient who would like support with its plans to develop an existing green area in Tytherington into quality football pitches, with the support of Cheshire East Council and Funding from the FA. The club has been very successful in the three years since it was started and has 13 junior football teams but would like support to put a plan together for the pitches.

It is difficult to put a figure to the number of residents who benefit from these community groups but within the scope of support given by CVS the minimum number would be 502 – 40 family members from the Slow Cooker Project, 200 women and children from Pearls of Cheshire, 39 with ROAR, 12 for Artspace sewing project, 10 directly with East Cheshire Mental Health Forum, HPFC supports 200 children and Roenaissance Project has 7 volunteers). These organisations' beneficiaries in general support a much greater number of people in Macclesfield.

### 3. Volunteering and VCFS Hub

CVS Cheshire East has started to develop a Macclesfield Hub page [Macclesfield VCFS Hub | CVS Cheshire East \(cvsce.org.uk\)](https://www.macclesfield.gov.uk/cvsce.org.uk) which can be accessed via the Town Council website. The page has details of VCFS organisations working in the Macclesfield area and the volunteering roles available and the registering process.

Volunteering numbers dropped over the past two years because of the pandemic and are only starting to pick up now and CVS works with organisations to create and upload volunteer roles for the community. For example

- Roenaissnce Project has recruited three new volunteers for its gardening project through CVS referrals and has capacity to take on more.
- Grow Macclesfield will be opening its community allotment to the community in the next couple of months and
- The Disability Information Bureau is also recruiting volunteers now that its services have re-opened, as has Change Grow Live.
- Barnaby Festival for example has been in touch with CVS with regards its volunteer roles training.
- MHA Communities is also looking to increase its volunteer number in order to provide more befriending support and activities for its members.

CVS promotes the hub where possible and encourages organisations and individuals to register their interest on the site to access opportunities. 24% of the 274 volunteer registrations were from residents of Macclesfield. 36% of all volunteer registrations were interested in supporting volunteering within Macclesfield.