

## **Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council Mar 2023**

Supporting MTC to develop a VCFS network for Macclesfield by way of:

- Supporting Macclesfield groups with their development and income generation and income diversification
- Creating a bank of Volunteers to work with the Town Council and associated groups in the Community
- Supporting the Town Council Grants programmes to organisations that deliver services in Macclesfield and provide assistance to those organisations
- Assisting VCF organisations to become more environmentally sustainable

As part of this agreement, CVS Cheshire East will produce summary reports for the Finance Committee on progress made as well as a year-end report. This summary outlines the work carried out between February and March under the general headings below.

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

CVS provides a Group Development Office dedicated to Macclesfield to whom the Council signposts groups needing additional support. Since February this year CVS has supported:

#### Macclesfield Community Artspace

The organisation has made significant progress during the past year with the addition of a paid project co-ordinator. Efforts now need to be made to find funds to continue her employment and the group is starting to generate small surpluses to help sustain itself. CVS met with the Board to discuss its roles and responsibilities and the need to strengthen it.

#### Weston Community Hub

Peaks & Plains gifted the hub on Gilchrist Avenue to the Community and asked for support with constitution the Hub and opening a bank account.

#### Cheshire Streetwise

CVS met with Maggie Falconer to discuss the future of the food bank on the Weston Estate which they run. It will still continue but Maggie has stepped back. CVS held a further meeting with Cre8 and Peaks and Plains to ensure the continuation of the foodbank there.

#### Green In the Corner

CVS was invited to meet with the directors to discuss ways of progressing the space as the café has been closed since Christmas. They will be holding a BBQ on the Coronation bank holiday, which will be an opportunity to talk to residents. The local Neighbourhood Partnership meeting might bring along interested parties also. The issue is that the café does not make a profit so has to rethink how the building as a whole remains sustainable. A community consultation could help with these issues.



### Hope Centre

The café reopened on a smaller scale with a new manager and the upstairs room is now a community space eg local high school to run young people's groups. CVS will support the Centre via signposting and also support the organisation's volunteers through training.

### Citizens Advice Bureau NE

CVS met with the Chief Officer to discuss partnerships working with other organisations and differing levels of Service Level Agreements.

CVS has also attended various partnership meetings such as the four local Neighbourhood Partnerships, Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Working Group, Macclesfield Food Network, Macclesfield Community Cohesion Group and Macclesfield Cultural Forum, to gather and disseminate information and act as a representative of the VCFSE sector.

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

CVS has been actively encouraging local organisations to register with the volunteering hub and upload role descriptions as there needs to be as wide a variety as possible in order to attract potential volunteers. They have also been speaking with East Cheshire Hospice who launched a community befriending service which is proving really successful but they need more volunteers, especially outside of Macclesfield. CVS have been signposting them to possible sources eg Peaks and Plains Housing Trust and Congleton Partnership.

### **A robust community grants programme**

CVS participates in the Council's grant giving programme by reviewing applications and successful recipients have been contacted with offers of support. CVS provides help with grant writing and with monitoring and evaluation of projects to all recipients and additional guidance to unsuccessful applicants to enable them to apply again. CVS is in the process of contacting the recipients of January's funding round.

### **Environment network established for VCFS organisations**

An environmental sub-group has been set up as part of the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Plan, which CVS sits on.

End of report.