

Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council Nov 2022

A two-year 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 2022 to 31st January 2024, 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 biannual summary report on progress made as well as a year-end report. This summary outlines the work carried out between July and September 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 September this year CVS has supported:

Disability Information Bureau

The DIB requires continuity funding to support the work it carries out in Macclesfield and the surrounding areas and CVS supported its grant application to the National Lottery which was submitted at the end of September and has just got through the first stage.

Roe-Naissance Project

CVS was hoping to start working with this group in September, building up trustee skills and supporting them with their overall strategy, but this has been scaled back and a meeting has been planned for November to discuss the development of the Project.

Destiny Children

A charity supporting a school in Mombassa, Kenya, Destiny Children has approached CVS for support with the recruitment of new trustees.

Auxilium Social Enterprise

A new CIC set up in Macclesfield to support people into work in the health care system. Initially they want to support refugees, so CVS has put them in contact with Refugees Welcome and Scoop and Scales for a possible meeting space to meet potential clients. We are also supporting them with their strategy going forward ie how they will fit into the health and social care landscape.

Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery

This organisation is initially one man's plan to plant more trees in the area and he approached CVS to assist with incorporation, recruiting volunteers and networking. He has been put in touch with the eco sub-group in Macclesfield and also spoke at the eco summit. He has been given contacts of organisations in Macclesfield who might work with him to help propagate seeds and with the countryside rangers to learn from their expertise. He is also being supported to incorporate the organisation.

Cygnets

Cheshire Youth Group for New and Emerging Talent on Stage recently took the lease of a performance space in Paradise Mill, Macclesfield. They need more groups to use the space to help them pay the bills, so CVS is supporting them to advertise and also to apply for funding for future projects.

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

In order to try and encourage more volunteers in Macclesfield, CVS partnered up with Peaks and Plains to create a volunteering video to promote volunteering in the town. Work stalled for a few months but it has been reignited and the housing association has visited the Cre8 cooking project to video volunteers there and has plans for several more interviews with volunteers from ROAR and Macclesfield District General Hospital. The plan is to encourage Peaks and Plains residents to volunteer and CVS will speak at their resident group meetings to talk further about the advantages of volunteering.

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 met with Macclesfield Cricket Club in August after their successful application to Macclesfield Town Council. The club has ambitious plans to redevelop the clubhouse and make it a more inclusive facility and has been in talks with the Rossendale Trust. Their newly created women's team has been a great success to date, winning promotion in its first season and the club wants to build on that. CVS will support them with strategy and funding advice. Barnaby Festival has now appointed a creative Director who has been introduced to CVS and who will be asking for support with volunteer recruitment and funding ideas. The Holy Trinity Church in Hurdsfield has also been in contact as they have a new community hub which they want to make sure is used fully by the community. They have had some funding for a community engagement officer and will need more funding for community events and activities, which CVS are supporting them with through grant searches and networking opportunities.

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. Several environmental groups are current members of CVS so we can contribute information and networking sharing ideas and have introduced a new member, Macclesfield Community Tree Nurse.

CVS Cheshire East continues to be involved with the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Group as a representative of the VCFS sector and contributing where possible to aid the development and promotion of Macclesfield where possible.

CVS will be holding its AGM in Macclesfield in December which will give local organisations the opportunity to speak about the work they do as well as the chance to network, learn about other projects and how they might support each other. It will be a hybrid event to give people the best chance to attend.

End of report.