



Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council Sept 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 February 2022 CVS has supported:

Roe-naissance Project

There is a new acting Chair and Secretary who want to really drive the project forward and CVS have held meetings with them and are in the process of setting up a learning programme which looks to strengthen the organisation as a whole. It will provide training and support for members to develop their individual skills for the benefit of the organisation in order to make it viable and sustainable.

Grow Macclesfield

This group has already made a big impact on the community and CVS is supporting it to incorporate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Disability Information Bureau



The DIB has been in operation for over 25 years and provides a valuable service to the Macclesfield community and beyond. It needs funding to continue this work and CVS is Supporting their bid writing.

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

There is still a lack of volunteers in Macclesfield but CVS has been working with local organisation Reach Out and Recover and the New Leaf Programme to place volunteers with suitable groups. Organisations such as CEC's Countryside Ranger Service, Methodist Housing Association and Macclesfield District General Hospital have benefitted from this and ROAR is looking to partner with The Ranger Service to provide a more regular volunteering programme for its service users.

CVS facilitated employees from Bruntwood, Booth Hall, to assist Macclesfield Community Artspace clear out unwanted materials from their building.

The volunteering initiative which was begun with CVS and Peaks and Plains has not progressed any further at present due to difficulties at their end, but communication is ongoing.

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. In the funding round in June, nine organisations submitted applications which CVS commented on and six were successful. Macclesfield Cricket Club and Macclesfield Boys Boxing Club are the only two organisations that are not already members of CVS so they have been contacted with offers of support (the other organisations already receive it). There was another funding round in August and two applications were successful from Barnaby Festival and the Holy Trinity Church. CVS assisted the Barnaby Festival with writing the application and will continue to support them and have also approached the Church with offer of assistance.

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.

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.

End of report.