

CVS



Annual Partnership Report February 2023



Community &
Voluntary Services
cheshire east



Annual Partnership Report Macclesfield Town Council 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023

CVS Cheshire East successfully completed a year-long project in January 2022 with Macclesfield Town Council, to provide support to the voluntary community faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector in Macclesfield, enabling a strong voluntary and community service in the town that meets the needs of its residents. CVS was then reappointed to continue the project and this report details the further assistance provided to community organisations to develop their services to the local community during the past twelve months.

Macclesfield has a very active and wide-ranging local voluntary sector, supporting people of all ages. From small, hyper-local community groups that keep their streets clean and well planted to charities providing much needed support to residents' physical and mental wellbeing, there is much to be proud of and CVS is delighted to have been a part of fostering and facilitating the development of this sector in the town.

The Service Level Agreement priorities between the Council and CVS are to:

- Support Macclesfield groups with their development and income generation and income diversification.
- 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.
- Create an online Community for Macclesfield, both for volunteers and for Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCFS) organisations.
- Create a bank of Volunteers to work with the Town Council and associated groups in the community.

Supporting Macclesfield Groups With Their Development

We have provided support to 32 organisations by means of governance, funding, training and volunteering, helping to develop a stronger and more resilient community.

Governance Support

13 organisations received assistance with incorporation, policy review and organisational strategy, all of which is ongoing. Three of these organisations are recently established and have been signposted to other groups in order to strengthen partnership working and collaboration which will enable them to draw up an effective organisational strategy from the offset e.g. **Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery**, **Auxillium Social Enterprises** and **Inspiring Animal Therapy**. Other organisations such as **Pearls of Cheshire** and **Macclesfield Boys Boxing Club** are at the stage of reviewing their organisational strategy and CVS will facilitate workshops with trustees, volunteers and stakeholders to help them progress this.

Funding Support

Funding opportunities for organisations is also an element of the support provided by CVS. All applicants for Macclesfield Town Council funding in the past twelve months were contacted and offered support by CVS.

Many of those organisations are well established, with good governance in place and are existing members of CVS so no additional support was required at the time e.g. **Macclesfield Scouts** and **The Silk Heritage Museum**.



Silk Heritage Museum's guided walks

Others such as **Cygnets** and **Grow Macclesfield** have met with CVS to discuss their incorporation and are in the process of changing their organisational structure.

Hurdsfield Phoenix FC, **Barnaby Festival** and **Macclesfield Cricket Club** also met with CVS as a result of grant applications made to the Council, in order to discuss their development via funding. Phoenix FC would like to ultimately build their own pitches and clubhouse and the Cricket Club has plans to redevelop their club house and provide inclusive access for all abilities to participate in sport at their venue. They will require a comprehensive fundraising plan in order to succeed and CVS has offered to support them with this.

There are also organisations who have requested support in identifying funders for projects: **Cygnets**, **Northern Box Lacrosse**, **Cre8** and **Macclesfield Community Artspace**.

CVS has recently developed a new training programme around organisation strategy development and has started conversations with several Macclesfield groups around this e.g. **Pearls of Cheshire**, **Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery** and **Inspiring Therapy**.

VCFSE Project Development In Macclesfield – Supporting The Wider Community

While supporting organisations to secure funding, we have also continued working to create networks and encourage collaboration and partnership working to help unlock additional funding and create stronger projects which benefit more residents. **Peaks and Plains Housing Trust** for example, have re-established their community team and CVS has supported with a local community group to become constituted in order to take over a P&P community centre on the Weston Estate.

The local VCFSE sector has been strengthened in the last year through partnership working, benefiting more residents in Macclesfield. **Cre8, Just Drop-In, ROAR, Pearls of Cheshire, Scoop & Scales, Repair Café, Silklife Food Bank, Mentell, Macclesfield Museums** and **Macclesfield Community Artspace** are just some of the organisations working jointly to provide more services and events.



South Park

CVS has also been working with **S:PARK** and the Council to fundraise for a new community building in South Park, taking part in the public consultation which was held in August and also working with the Town Clerk to submit an application to The National Lottery. CVS will continue to work with S:PARK to fundraise for this much needed new community space.

Other examples of the partnership working which benefit the community are:

- **Pearls of Cheshire** members participating in **Reach Out And Recover's** mental health support project
- **Macclesfield Community Tree Nursery** has been reaching out to other community groups such as **Cre8, Macclesfield Wildlife Explorers** and **Food4Macc**, for volunteers to help with his seeding project.
- **Inspiring Animal Therapy** have been signposted to **ROAR** to explore collaboration on land for therapy animals.

Volunteering and VCFS Hub



CVS Cheshire East's Macclesfield Hub page [Macclesfield VCFS Hub | CVS Cheshire East \(cvsce.org.uk\)](#) has details of thirty-three VCFS organisations working in the Macclesfield area with **34 volunteering roles available** with a clear registration process. The Town Council has a link to the hub on their website.

Recruitment of MTC volunteers was paused temporarily while new staff were recruited to the Town Council but is in the process of promoting it once more. **Peaks and Plains Housing Trust** are working with CVS to create a volunteering video to promote the value of volunteering to the community as numbers are still low following COVID.

CVS actively promotes the hub and encourages organisations and individuals to register their interest on the site to access opportunities, **17% of the 253 volunteer registrations on the CVS Volunteering Hub service are from residents of Macclesfield.**

CVS also works with **New Leaf**, a volunteer programme, which has been successfully placing people with 8 Macclesfield based organisations; **Macclesfield Artspace, Macclesfield Hospital, Macclesfield Roe Naissance Project, St Michaels Church Café, East Cheshire Eye Society, Snow Angels, CGL and Refugees Welcome.**

VCFSE Sector And The Environment

Caring for the environment is one of the priorities of the Council and as such an environmental sub-group was 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 is itself looking at sustainability and net zero carbon standards within the sector.

We want to hold workshops for organisations over the coming months on the topic of environmental sustainability, exploring ways that the sector can develop new ideas and initiatives in line with the Charity Commission's commitment to sustainable development as part of its work.



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