

CVS



Annual Partnership Report February 2024



Annual Partnership Report Macclesfield Town Council

1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024

CVS Cheshire East has been contracted by Macclesfield Town Council since January 2022 to provide support to the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith, Social Enterprise) sector in the town and civil parish, to enable a strong voluntary and community service that meets the needs of its residents.

Macclesfield has a very active and wide-ranging voluntary sector, from tiny grassroot organisations on a particular estate who help local residents combat social isolation and loneliness, foodbanks providing wraparound support to those suffering food insecurity, to a flourishing cultural sector that collaborates with the Council to produce wonderful inclusive events that the community can take part in throughout the year. CVS provides support to those organisations and the Council to enable them to be as resilient and sustainable as possible and so continue to provide the services that help their communities.

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 twenty-two organisations by means of governance, funding, training and volunteering, helping to develop a stronger and more resilient community. CVS's mission is to create a strong and sustainable voluntary sector by assisting organisations to develop strategies for growth. Having a clear blueprint for the direction of travel helps organisations both big and small to plan for the future and create greater stability for themselves and the communities they serve. In the current climate, with funding possibilities becoming more elusive and competitive, there is a recognised need for collaboration and co-production among organisations and CVS works to foster those relationships in order to create stronger initiatives.



Governance Support

Supporting groups to develop a constitution and policies that provide clear guidelines for decision-making is an important element of the CVS provision and this year nine organisations were given assistance with their governance, which included developing a constitution in the case of the [Malayali Association](#), a safeguarding policy and safeguarding training ([Macc Wild Network](#)), starting the process of converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ([One Project](#)) and developing an organisational strategy to help future planning ([Macclesfield Community Artspace](#)).

Funding Support

CVS reviewed the applications for Macclesfield Town Council funding throughout the year, commenting on them and where requested, providing additional support to organisations such as [The Bollin Valley Partnership](#), [MHA Communities](#) and the [Roenaissance Project](#). Proof reading and additional input was given to other funding applications made by [Macclesfield Community Artspace](#), [Disability Information Services](#) and [Speaking Up Speaking Out](#). CVS also met with the [Holy Trinity Church](#) to discuss their outreach project and funders to apply to.

CVS has also begun working with [Macclesfield Community Artspace](#) on a Foundation for Funding strategy, facilitating in an initial workshop to develop an organisational strategy which will help them shape their future. It is hoped that the strategy will be fully developed in the coming months. [Speaking Up Speaking Out](#) have also had a consultation about their organisational strategy, which will be continued this year.

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 organisations and residents. We introduced [Macclesfield Artspace to Great Places Housing Trust](#) to provide a community arts project to their tenants. We are working with the newly created [Malayali Association](#) to develop events for the wider community of Macclesfield and have also been involved with the Council and [S:Park Pavilion project in South Park](#) and will continue to provide support where needed.

Volunteering and VCFS Hub

CVS Cheshire East's Macclesfield Hub page [Macclesfield VCFS Hub | CVS Cheshire East \(cvsce.org.uk\)](#) has details of groups and charities operating in the Macclesfield area along with the volunteering roles available with those organisations and the Town Council has a link to the hub on their website. CVS promotes the hub and encourages organisations and individuals to register their interest on the site to access opportunities and in the past year [288 volunteer registrations](#) were from people living in Macclesfield. [Macclesfield District General Hospital](#) is the single largest recruiter of Macclesfield residents, responsible for recruiting [approximately 80%](#) of that figure.



VCFSE Sector And The Environment

Macclesfield has a strong environmental ethos which is reflected in the large number of organisations carrying out various projects around the town such as [Macc Wild Network](#), [One Project](#), [Scoop & Scales](#) and [The Repair Cafe](#). Several environmental groups are current members of CVS so we can contribute information and networking sharing ideas. CVS 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.

Macclesfield has a great community spirit and will to improve the town and parish, in terms of the environment, culture and community support and this is reflected both in the number and breath of community work carried out and also in the support provided by Macclesfield Town Council, who have a real understanding of how a community can come together. CVS has a very good relationship with the Council and it has been a pleasure working with Laura and her colleagues.



Community &
Voluntary Services
cheshire east

www.cvsce.org.uk