

Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council November 2023

Supporting MTC to develop a VCFSE 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 from July to October under the general headings below.

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

CVS provides a Group Development Officer dedicated to Macclesfield to whom the Council signposts groups needing additional support. Since July CVS has supported:

Macclesfield Community Artspace

CVS carried out trustee roles and responsibilities training with the new board of trustees and met with them in September to look at their organisation strategy, which they are now in the process of creating. There is also a need for a fundraising strategy as their funding for the Artspace co-ordinator has now ended. CVS has had an initial conversation with Cheshire East Council's Cultural Economy Manager to explore ways of funding Artspace and also supported the charity in their funding bid to The National Lottery.

Macclesfield Bereavement Support Services

MBSS now have their constitution and appropriate governance documentation in place in order to apply for grants.

Speaking Up Speaking Out

CVS is meeting with SUSO in November to discuss their organisation strategy and Theory of Change.

Macclesfield Wildlife Trust

Macclesfield town Council signposted the Trust to CVS for support producing a Safeguarding policy in order to allow them apply for town Council funding. That was followed up by a safeguarding training session for the group at the end of October.

Youth Federation

Although not a Macclesfield-based organisation, The Youth Federation has submitted a planning application to Cheshire East Council to build a youth centre, 'Our Space', on the site of the Fermain Academy on Oxford Road. CVS signposted the organisation to youth groups in Macclesfield.

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

Work is also continuing to promote volunteering generally in Macclesfield via the CVS volunteering hub. CVS and Peaks and Plains have produced a series of short video clips from local volunteers to help promote volunteering in Macclesfield. We have also been supporting ANSA's Greener Spaces for Wellbeing Project by signposting them to organisations that might be interested and promoting the project through various social media platforms. CVS also met with Cheshire East Council's youth devices team to discuss ways of supporting youth clubs and volunteers for them. CVS is also hosting a volunteer managers' network at the end of November to discuss challenges and opportunities within the voluntary sector.

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. We have also been promoting partnership working where possible with the Emotional Wellbeing for Children Fund and Suicide Prevention Fund. Cheshire East Council's new Warmer, Greener Community Fund is being funnelled through its crowdfunding platform and CVS has been promoting that. This round is concentrating on new and improved community facilities.

Environment network established for VCFS organisations

CVS sits on the environmental sub-group, part of the Macclesfield Town Centre Recovery Plan, but which has not met for several months.

End of report.