

Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council February - September 2025

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 February to September 2025.

Support provided to groups working within Macclesfield:

E-Lov

CVS supported E-lov in 2024 with its incorporation as a CIC and they have since spent time putting a plan together to provide events to educate the public on bike safe usage and maintenance and also to generate an income via recycling bikes for usage and more complicated repairs. We signposted them to other organisations in the area who might be interested in participating and also reviewed their community survey. They successfully applied for funding to deliver The Big Bike Revival in September and October and have already delivered 2 of 6 events planned.

Space4Autism

The charity have agreed to be part of a survey around community transport/alternative transport for people with disabilities in the Macclesfield area. Cheshire East Council's Adult Social Care team will also be involved, as will the Disability Information Bureau. The survey will go live in October.

Speaking Up Speaking Out

CVS had been supporting SUSO in 2024 to try to stave off closure, but the charity had to wind up in February this year. SUSO donated its remaining funds to DIB and was hoping to

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run its group activities on a voluntary basis from the DIB premises, but unfortunately the space available was found to be unsuitable. However the DIB continues to offer rooms for meetings and storage space to the volunteers.

Citizens Advice Cheshire North

Aoife Middlemass, in her capacity as interim CEO, met with CAB to investigate the possibility of a DIB member of staff hotdesking at the CAB, in order to help with triaging clients and signposting to DIB where appropriate. This is still under discussion. She also researched list of possible funders for CAB to apply to.

Macclesfield Artspace

CVS will be providing safeguarding training to the charity's volunteers later this year. Artspace was also signposted to funding streams around mental health and the arts.

Potential Brewed

The directors were signposted to CVS for support with fundraising. They are new CIC, supporting people with digital skills and have been working with the Core in Upton Priory. CVS connected them with DIB's IT programme, ran a funding search for them and included them in the CVS comms for the next VCFSE Alliance event in November.

Cheshire Connect

In March, CVS met with Cheshire Connect, an organisation which matches businesses with charities who need support in particular areas. Cheshire Connect was then introduced to Cre8 and DIB.

Arts4StableMinds

Aoife met with Susanne Young, an art psychotherapist who previously worked with the NHS but now works with private clients. She would like to set up a community resource to help adults' emotional health and wellbeing. A discussion was held on the best ways of achieving this, including working with organisations that already exist, but also on ways of setting up a community group. Further support will be given as she decides how she wants to move forward.

Wider support in Macclesfield

CVS supported Macclesfield Town Council with its town centre public consultation event on 17th May, acting as facilitator. The event was part of a wider consultation to gather ideas and feedback from stakeholders on possible improvements to the town centre to aid its regeneration. CVS also participated in the town's 10-year celebrations by having a stall in the town hall, to talk about the support on offer to Macclesfield groups.

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The Cheshire East Food Alliance (run by CVS) has been working with the Macclesfield Care Community to develop a Fruit and Vegetables on Prescription pilot project on the Hurdsfield estate, based on the JSNA statistics, which highlight the higher levels of cancer detected there. CVS is also in the early stages of involvement with a child health GP hub funding bid that the Macclesfield Care Community is tendering for - a pilot programme in Macclesfield.

Macclesfield Town Council's grant programme

Cheshire East Council's recent four rounds of funding saw CVS provide application support to organisations such as Make it Macclesfield, Tytherington Juniors FC, Just Drop In and Refugees Welcome. CVS has reviewed grant applications from fifteen organisations since February, and those unknown to us were contacted with offers of support.

End of report.