



Interim Report to Macclesfield Town Council March – August 2026

Helping Macclesfield Town Council develop a strong VCFSE network through:

- Enabling Macclesfield groups to strengthen their organisations, develop sustainable income streams and diversify their funding
- Building a pool of volunteers who can contribute to the work of the Town Council and community organisations.
- Adding capacity and specialist knowledge to the Town Council's grants programmes, helping local organisations develop stronger applications and deliver effective services
- Helping VCFSE organisations improve their environmental sustainability

As part of this agreement, CVS Cheshire East provides summary reports to the Finance Committee on progress, alongside a year-end report. This interim report highlights the work undertaken and, in particular, the practical value CVS has brought to organisations and initiatives across Macclesfield between March and August 2026.

Strengthening local organisations and unlocking opportunities

Over the last six months, CVS has worked directly with eleven Macclesfield groups. The contribution has ranged from organisational development and governance advice to funding intelligence, introductions, training and practical help with project development. In many cases, CVS has helped organisations move from an initial challenge or idea towards a clearer plan, stronger evidence base or new source of expertise and funding.

The Hope Centre

CVS met with trustees and volunteers to help the charity review its organisational structure as it prepares to change its name and refocus its work around current community needs. It facilitated an organisational planning session, helping the charity develop a new theory of change and vision. This work is particularly timely as the organisation approaches its 15th anniversary and prepares for a relaunch.

Lyme Green Community Centre

CVS worked with Kevin Hoines to identify potential funders for the centre's plans. With £13,000 still to raise, and larger companies already committed elsewhere and relatively few grants available for buildings, the centre needs financial support, which is proving difficult.

Space4Autism

CVS attended a Space4Autism coffee morning and, on behalf of the Disability Information Bureau, outlined financial assistance available to members. The session also connected people with organisations able to provide further specialist help in other areas.



Rewild your Life CIC

CVS met with Ruth Morgan following the formation of the CIC through Cheshire East Council's Green Spaces for Wellbeing project. CVS provided practical guidance on key policies, including Safeguarding and Equity and Diversity, supplied templates to help establish the organisation's framework, and identified potential funding opportunities.

Macc Wild Network Trust

In May, CVS delivered safeguarding training for trustees and volunteers, strengthening the organisation's governance and helping those involved understand their responsibilities.

Methodist Homes (MHA)

CVS met with MHA's new Macclesfield manager, David Foulds, to understand the organisation's current position and explore where CVS expertise could add value in the future.

The Holy Trinity Church Hurdsfield

CVS met with Community Lead Patty-Lou Bryant, to understand the services currently delivered by the church. Rather than continuing to pursue small grants for individual projects, CVS identified an opportunity to build a stronger case for investment through a community consultation. By gathering evidence of local need, the church could demonstrate the potential for a larger project with greater community impact. Patty will develop a questionnaire, which CVS will help review and subsequently analyse.

Potential Brewed

CVS met with two members of the team to explore funding for digital assistance for people who struggle with technology, including help with Crisis Resilience Fund applications. CVS provided introductions to other Town Councils and organisations, helping Potential Brewed connect with relevant communities, and identified potential funding routes. CVS also reviewed one of the organisation's funding applications.

Green In the Corner

Aoife met with Councillor Bennet-Wake to consider the challenges facing Green In The Corner, a valuable community resource operating within a difficult funding model. CVS helped shape the next step: establishing what local residents want from the building before developing a future plan. Cllr Bennet-Wake will prepare survey questions with CVS input.

Pray Go Trust

CVS met the charity at the Cheshire Community Foundation consultation event for the Macclesfield fund. The charity is seeking investment to develop a prayer app and already has a prototype. CVS made targeted introductions to the Reaching Communities Officer at the National Lottery and to Digital Cheshire, opening up potential routes to both funding and technical expertise.

Cheshire Community Foundation Macclesfield Fund consultation

CVS attended the August consultation to ensure the voice of the local VCFSE sector was represented. The discussion focused on the challenges and barriers facing Macclesfield



organisations and what would help them become more resilient and effective. CVS also offered a clear point of contact for organisations needing practical guidance to become funder-ready.

Macclesfield Town Council's grant programme

Macclesfield Town Council held a grants day in April for organisations that had not previously applied or wanted to discuss potential projects. CVS attended to provide specialist guidance, helping organisations understand the process and strengthen their readiness to apply. The session was particularly productive and led to new organisations, including Maximum Cheer and 201 Squadron Air Cadets, applying to the Council.

Since March, CVS has reviewed 13 grant applications alongside Macclesfield Town Council and provided additional, tailored input to three organisations. This partnership brings additional capacity and sector knowledge to the Council's grant-making process while helping local groups present stronger proposals.

Volunteering

CVS continues to maintain and update the Macclesfield volunteering portal on the Council website, helping ensure local volunteering opportunities remain visible and accessible.

Environment

CVS participates in Green Coalition meetings and contributes practical connections and opportunities, including inviting relevant funders to engage with the group.

Wider CVS contribution to Macclesfield

CVS's wider work in Macclesfield also demonstrates the longer-term value of a strong local infrastructure organisation. At the end of July, CVS successfully concluded two years of work with the Disability Information Bureau, having helped secure five years of National Lottery funding to strengthen the organisation's future. A new CEO has now been appointed, enabling the DIB to continue its highly valued work with residents of Macclesfield and beyond, including advice around disability benefits and health and wellbeing.

The Cheshire East Food Alliance has also made a significant contribution to Macclesfield, working effectively with local food providers to coordinate responses to food insecurity.

Refugees Welcome remains another important local organisation, with volunteers working tirelessly to help refugees settle and establish their lives in the town.

Overall, the past six months demonstrate that CVS Cheshire East's contribution extends beyond individual pieces of advice. By bringing specialist knowledge, funding expertise, connections, training, organisational development and a wider view of the local voluntary sector, CVS helps Macclesfield organisations become stronger, more sustainable and better placed to deliver lasting community benefit.

End of report.