



Supporting Community Action in Mid Devon

ANNUAL REVIEW

APRIL 2019—MARCH 2020

Working with charities and other not for profit organisations providing services in our local areas- helping them to function effectively, manage risks, develop skills, maintain standards, access funding, have a voice .

Chairman's notes

Reflecting on the previous year once again I am struck by how we have achieved our aims in ever challenging circumstances.

The loss of funding from Devon County Council had a significant impact on our core funding but we successfully acquired funding from alternative sources that enabled us to continue to offer a professional, quality, friendly service to those groups and individuals who seek our support, maintaining our income levels to the previous year.

The bulk of our funding this year had a health and wellbeing focus which meant our resources have been specifically targeted this year on particular areas of work, both geographic and on supporting groups supporting people's health and wellbeing. With the continuing support of Mid Devon District Council we have been able to offer more general support across the district in a changing environment.

We continued to advocate on behalf of the sector and communities in Mid Devon at District and County Level.

Of course at the end of this year, we alongside everyone else were hit by the pandemic. I would like to thank the staff for coping admirably with this, switching to remote working and continuing, in the last month of the year, to keep the sector and the local response groups informed, providing support and maintaining intelligence about what was going on in those turbulent times.

The revised working arrangements will be considered in the longer term as we continue to seek economies of scale without compromising the support we are able to offer..

This support must reflect the changing working environment of the groups across the district and the trustees will consider how this can be effectively delivered whilst continuing to protect the sustainability of the organisation.

Paul Williams (Chair of Trustees)



Supporting Community Action in Mid Devon

BETWEEN APRIL 2019—MARCH 2020 WE

- ⇒ maintained and developed services and support for voluntary and community organisations working to meet the needs of Mid Devon’s communities through one to one support to organisations and workshops to help increase skills and capabilities
- ⇒ Facilitated liaison within and between the sector and its strategic and statutory partners through Networks, forums and conversations aligned to the three main towns – CREDITON, CULLOMPTON and TIVERTON
- ⇒ Encouraged and supported active citizenship and strive to improve the environment in which volunteering takes place through volunteer manager forums to help groups engage with volunteers and providing a local online brokerage system to match volunteers with opportunities.

WE PROVIDED



One to One

support to **75** groups



One to Many

support to **66** groups and **91** individuals



Promoted **121** local volunteering opportunities



10 networking opportunities for groups to come together to discuss issues facing our communities.

With **269** groups participating



Supported **9** groups to raise **£30,000**

Successfully applied for **£90,000** for projects and support delivered by Involve to communities across Mid Devon



Devon People First

This project supports people with learning difficulties/disabilities to speak up for themselves through self and peer advocacy. It is delivered as a semi-independent body within Involve and has a nominated representative on Involve's board.

Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver Victim Care Support remained stable through 2019/20. We continued to provide an Individual Advocacy Service for victims of crime with a learning disability. This service provides a peer advocate to those who need it and follows an international model of working. This year a further 9 individuals were referred and supported to recover from being a victim of crime and 1 individual was supported in the same way who was an unreported victim of crime. Beneficiaries of the service report an increase in self esteem, sense of empowerment and their perceptions of safety, as well as having the confidence to participate in social activities which is so often affected by being a victim of crime.

We continue to play a role in facilitating engagement with our service users when requested through consultation on certain DCC documents.

Facilitating participation in a number of strategic partnership meetings and focus groups continued to be an important strand of our work, providing an 'expert view' on how to engage people with learning difficulties. This year these included a Co-Production working group with the aim of changing the culture in DCC so that Co-Production is fundamental to the commissioning cycle. We facilitated 2 workshops for DCC commissioners and appropriate staff.

The Citizenship Project: We completed the learning disabilities easy read citizenship pack for Crediton with the help of several learning disabilities groups. The pack can now be adapted for any town within Devon. It gives information on citizenship, people's rights, health in the community and information about the local community.

Friendship Groups: In March we were successful in gaining funding from DCC for a new project, part of the learning disability partnership board initiative to help people with learning disabilities feel less lonely and isolated. We will be setting up and facilitating 4 friendship groups across Mid and North Devon. The citizenship packs will help the new project to focus on being part of people's local communities.



Devon & Cornwall Police



Crediton Wellbeing



Funded by the Improved Better Care Fund, this project provided a 'wrap around' social prescribing to Crediton, following a smaller, successful pilot in 2018-2019. Involve managed and co-ordinated this project working with the local voluntary and community sector and health and social care reporting to the Crediton Health and Wellbeing Alliance and Partnerships.

The team of Wellbeing Co-ordinators (WBC) were provided by Age Concern Crediton and Westbank; Involve provided a dedicated community development worker and the management and co-ordination of the project.

The project also funded an online referral, information and case management system linked to the CVS database of voluntary sector and community groups.

Individuals are referred to the scheme and together with their WBC are encouraged to discuss what matters to them and develop a plan to help improve their health and wellbeing.

By the end of the year the scheme supported 99 individuals and continuation funding has been agreed with the Primary Care Network.

'She gave details of how and where to join, and which would be most suitable for me. Consequently, I joined an exercise class at the arts centre on Thursday mornings.'

'I enjoyed my meetings with [name of well-being coordinator]. It gave me time to think through some of the reasons why I am currently spending so much time alone.'

'.....has helped me bridge the gap between living at home alone and the rest of society.....I now feel as if I'm doing some of the same things as other people again, and therefore a part of society again. This, in turn gives me confidence and makes me feel less isolated from others.'

Workshop programme 2019.

3 workshops were run across the district on

- ◆ Suicide Talk
- ◆ Mental Health Awareness
- ◆ Healthy Conversations



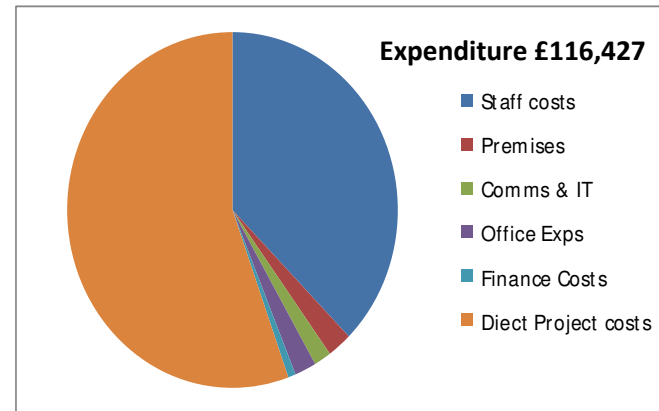
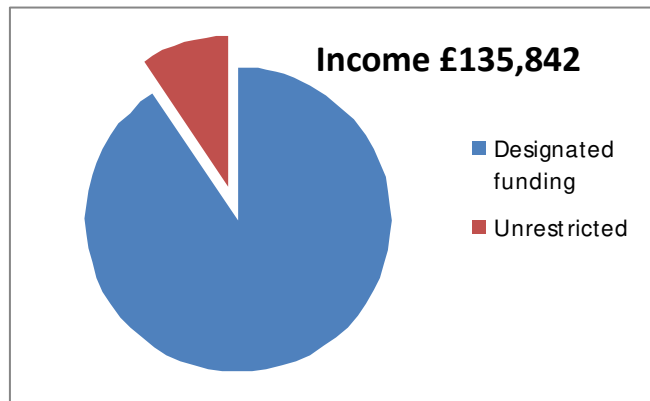
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Our Finances

This year our incoming resources remained stable.

Total expenditure increased by 22% reflecting the increased project based activity. Core CVS expenditure and organisation running costs were reduced by 6% as we continued to seek more efficient ways of working.

We have ended the year with funds carried forward of £92,322 of which £12,417 are held for statutory requirements, £70,356 are held for designated activities and £9,549 for other activities.



Our reserves policy is reviewed on an annual basis and we aim to set aside funds to meet our statutory obligations and up to six months' running costs.

A full copy of the examined accounts are available from our office at Sunningmead Community Centre, Lazenby Road, Tiverton.

In planning our activities for the year, the trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.



Supporting Community Action in Mid Devon

Our Board

Paul Williams—Trustee, Chair
Dennis Knowles— Trustee, Treasurer
Nicole Summers—Trustee
Frank Letch— Trustee
Polly Colthorpe— Independent Rep
Cllr Andrew Moore—MDDC Rep
Cllr Colin Slade—DCC Rep

About us

Registered Charity 1177169

Our Accountants

Thomas Westcott, Timberly, South
Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD

Our Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Our Staff

Karen Nolan - Chief Officer
Jacqui Cave
Emma Cottington
Devon People First
Lloyd Waterman

Our Members

Involve has just over 200 members drawn from all areas of Mid Devon. A full list is available on request.

Members are those who have received one or more of our services over the past year and who are either based in or delivering services to communities in Mid Devon. They can be a formally constituted group or organisation or an informal community group or organisation or an individual (or groups of individuals) looking to develop an idea within their community.

Our supporters

