



Devon Communities Together

helping communities help themselves

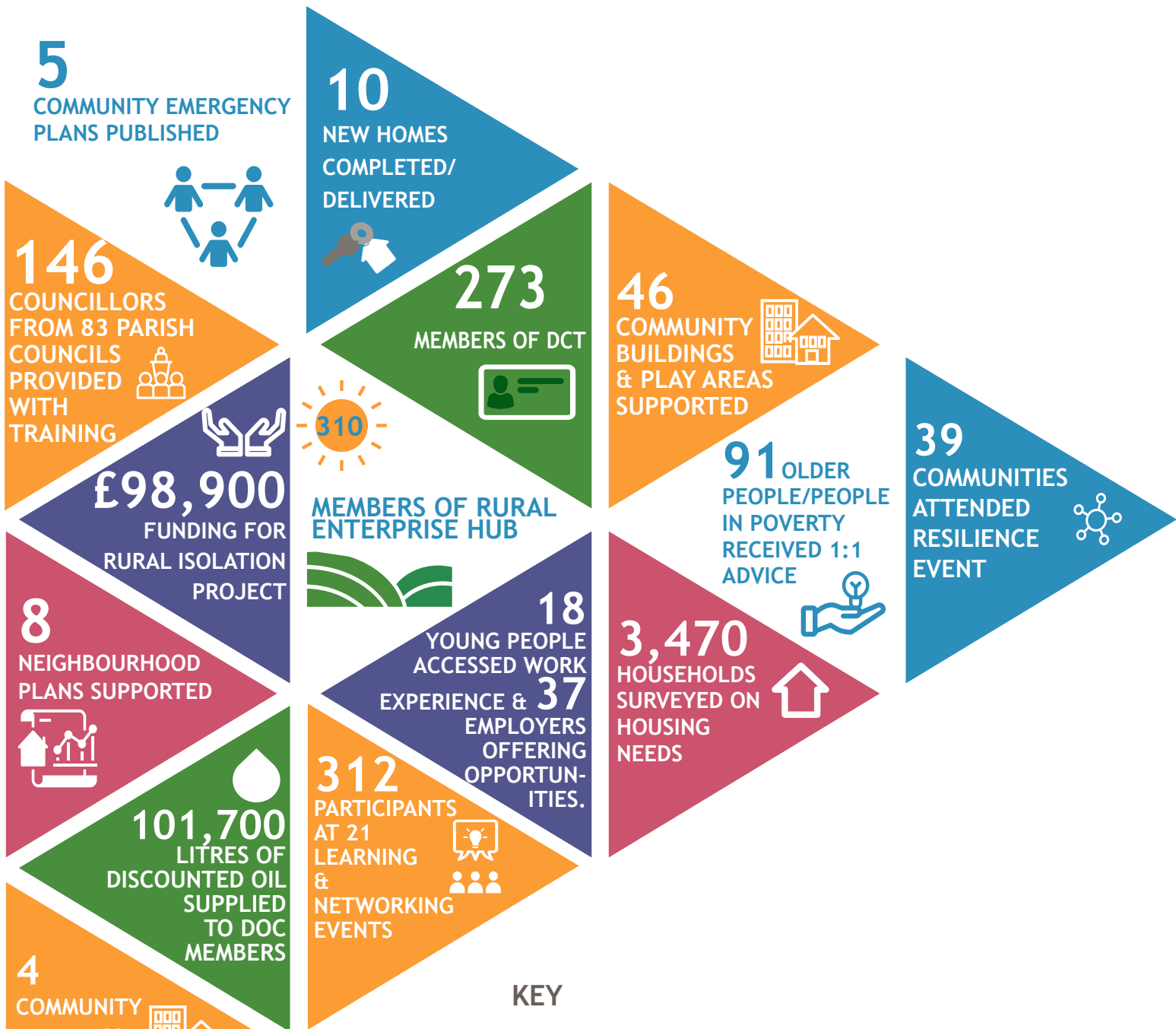
DEVON COUNTY
COUNCIL GRANT
FUNDING AGREEMENT

Q3 REPORT 2018/19








January 2019

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



KEY

DEVON COMMUNITIES OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:

-  Understanding Community Needs
-  Brokering Relationships
-  Capability Building Within Communities
-  Support for Community Resilience
-  Opportunities for Individuals to Become Active Citizens

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES HAVE
INCREASED CAPABILITY,
SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE
IN ADDRESSING
LOCAL ISSUES



Constructing Futures Devon Ltd has been partly funded by £574,320 from the Heart of the South West LEP's Growth Deal Funding.

CONSTRUCTING FUTURES DEVON

It's full steam ahead for our young Constructing Futures apprentices as they near completion on our first property in Torquay. Constructing Futures is a sustainable social purpose business established as a trading arm of DCT. We have partnered with South Devon College to give students the opportunity to work on renovation projects and new build properties as an off campus "real site" work experience opportunity.

IMPACT

Two full time apprentices, Ben Perkins and Jack Vaughan, plus their trainer and more than 40 other South Devon College Students have undertaken a wide mix of trades to bring the property up to modern standards, and the feedback so far is that the experience has been invaluable. The project has been featured in the local media, including on BBC Spotlight, and a second property is in the pipeline.

"I ... wouldn't have been able to have the opportunities I've had so far [without Constructing Futures] and probably future opportunities as well."

Ben Perkins, Painting and Decorating Apprentice, South Devon College

DEVON COMMUNITY LEARNING ACADEMY

We have run 60 learning/networking events to date this year with a total of 989 participants, including 21 in Q3 2018/19 with 312 participants. We collaborated on delivery with 14 external training providers in Q3 (6 in Q2).

IMPACT

Courses were attended by a wide range of organisations, including: East Devon District Council • Devon Carers • Churches Housing Action Team • Open Door Exmouth • North Devon Against Domestic Abuse • North Devon District Hospital Devon Carers • Disability Focus • CAB offices • Devon Partnership NHS Trust • MSA Trust • St Petrocks • The Club • Rowcroft Hospice • The Bridge Collective • Rachel Dawson's Support Space • Dartmouth Caring and many more.

Feedback from training participants included:

"Very eye opening as to how you structure (funding) applications etc - Well done!"

"Will be drawing up a stakeholder map and sharing with other trustees"



DCT OBJECTIVE COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER



Our Catalyst team assisted in producing a report on intelligence gathered from the community in Holsworthy.

CATALYST CONSULTANCY SERVICE

Catalyst, our Community Development/Social Enterprise Support team has continued to support local community and social enterprises. This quarter the team has supported four community projects and continues to proactively nurture new and existing relationships within communities.

IMPACT

Examples include: Tipton St John Recreation Field Trust playground re-development. A successful application was submitted to the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to secure development funding to help the group to become investment ready. We also assisted Healthwatch Devon to produce a report on intelligence gathered from a community survey in Holsworthy.

SUPPORTING SYRIAN REFUGEES

DCT has been working in partnership with Devon County Council and DeVA since July 2018 on a pilot project to support Syrian refugees in finding volunteer placements to improve their English language skills and employability prospects.

IMPACT

To date two young fathers in their 20s have started placements. One with Exeter Foodbank and one at an Exeter charity shop.

The placements are expected to help individuals improve their: spoken English; teamwork; work skills and knowledge; and knowledge of, and engagement with, their local community. Placements are going well, and feedback shows the individuals are having as much positive impact on their workplaces as the workplaces are having on the individual - with exposure to diversity being key.

Since developing working relationships with DCC and DeVA, a further 20+ community and voluntary organisations in the Exeter and Teignbridge areas are now open to developing opportunities for refugees in the future - including institutions such as RAMM, Powderham Castle and Devon Air Ambulance.



"[He has] settled in well at Foodbank and the teams seem to like him - our volunteers are often older people and I think that they probably like seeing a younger person involved. His language is coming on, he is very friendly and always willing to help." Manager, Exeter Foodbank



DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME
ECONOMICALLY
STRONGER



Colleagues at the Career Zone at Exeter University, host for a young person on the Empowering Enterprise project.

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE

Building Better Opportunities is a programme jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund. Devon Communities Together is part of Petroc College's partnership which is using the funding to deliver Empowering Enterprise - a unique project for 18 to 24-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training.

An Empowering Enterprise participant was seeking a work experience placement close to Exeter. He had been struggling to identify a suitable placement due to being a wheel chair user. DCT contacted the Career Zone at Exeter University, which is in a new, accessible building which the staff thought would be fine for a wheel chair user, and arranged for the participant to undertake a work experience placement.



IMPACT

The participant grew in confidence, becoming much more assertive in answering the phone and following up work. Despite being a relatively new building and working environment, the experience also highlighted a number of accessibility issues. Many of the desks were inaccessible for a wheel chair user, and this limited the participants ability to undertake meaningful work. As a result, the Career Zone have reviewed how accessible their work environment is for students and staff, making appropriate changes and installing wheel chair accessible desks.

"We had made so many assumptions about people with mobility disabilities being able to use the space... that's probably just not the case... So that has been a major eye-opener for us."

"So now we're having a range of new things including a wheelchair-accessible table, which is fantastic, and it's adaptable as well, so it can be lower or higher depending on that person's needs."

"... And we can publicise this as well and let people know that this is a space that hopefully any wheelchair user will be able to access a lot more comfortably."



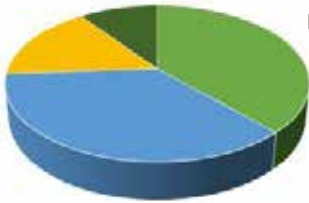
**DCT
OBJECTIVE**
COMMUNITIES
BECOME MORE
RESOURCEFUL
AND RESILIENT



SUPPORT FOR VILLAGE HALLS AND COMUNITY BUILDINGS

In this quarter DCT responded to 46 requests for support from village halls and community buildings.

IMPACT



Community buildings committees received expert advice to enable them to maintain and improve their valuable community assets.

- **38% Developing halls - building and renovation, funding and promotion**
- **36% Governance and management - developing policies, managing finances, understanding constitutions, resolving problems**
- **16% Providers of specialist services - advice on experienced providers to village halls - professional services, specialist trades, broadband**
- **10% Quality assurance - encouraging halls to achieve Hallmark, the national standard for village hall management**

DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM EVENT

On 22nd November 2018 DCT held a biannual resilience forum event at the Victory Hall in Broadclyst. 80 community representatives representing 39 parishes attended a series of presentations on a wide range of community resilience topics, all designed to upskill, inform and inspire attendees to produce or update a community emergency plan.

IMPACT

As a result of the event, attendees increased their capability, skills and knowledge to respond to local issues; both in terms of the production of the community emergency plan itself, and in terms of practical skills to respond to an emergency. They learned a variety of skills to increase resourcefulness and resilience, as well as being signposted to practical sources of resource; eg the Community Resilience Fund.

There are over 400 parishes in Devon. By helping parishes to complete a community emergency plan they will be best organised to respond to emergencies within the community.

Further, by uploading completed plans to 'Resilience Direct', emergency responders will be able to view the plan and therefore the local response before arriving on the scene. As result of the event, five new plans were received and uploaded to Resilience Direct.



"Enthusiastic presenters and helpful information."

Feedback for the event was overwhelmingly positive with 68% saying the content of the event was 'excellent' and the remaining 32% saying it was 'good'.

**DCT
OBJECTIVE
COMMUNITIES BECOME
HEALTHIER, MORE
VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE
WITH IMPROVED
WELL BEING**



An example of a CAN activity.

CONNECTING ACTIVELY TO NATURE (CAN)

The CAN project requires volunteers over the age of 55 to act as ambassadors for activity in nature and to support CAN participants to access activities. DCT has undertaken a recruitment campaign through the Devon Senior Voice network, involving promotion of CAN volunteering at the strategy group and branch meetings attended, as well as promoting CAN at the Devon Together Alliance meeting in Bideford in December. More targeted recruitment activity is planned, including a marketing campaign and potential opportunities to attend further community meetings to talk to members about CAN volunteering.

IMPACT

A small but growing group of volunteers have been trained and are equipped with skills and resources to engage with their local community and promote activity in nature and the CAN project. When CAN activities become more extensive in spring they will attend sessions with participants to promote the benefits of activity in nature and support them to attend. One of the volunteers is currently liaising with Active Devon in order to write and publish an article about the project in local Exeter newspapers.

DEVON MATERNITY VOICES PARTNERSHIP

Devon Communities Together was appointed to recruit and facilitate the new chair of the Devon Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP), which is a collective of parents (and parents-to-be), providers of maternity services (health professionals, charities and non-health professionals). Its role is to support parents (and parents-to-be) and maternity services to continually improve maternity services.

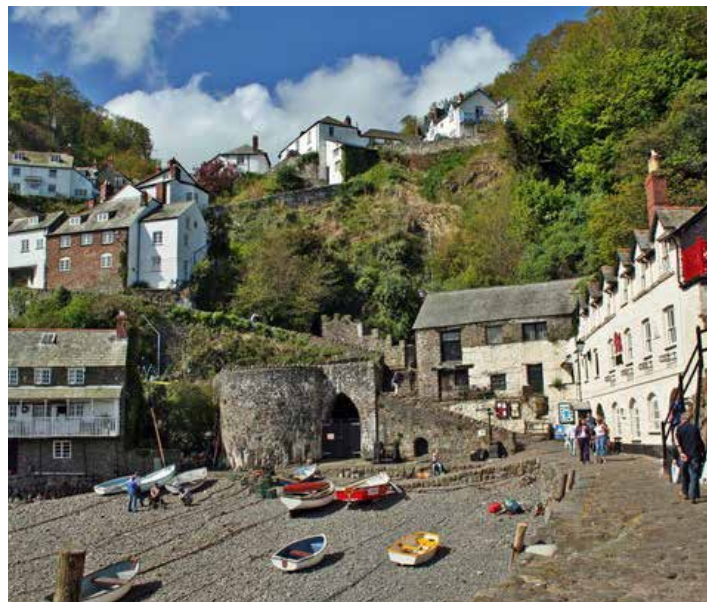
IMPACT

Since appointing the Chair, work has begun in establishing the tools to facilitate the MVP's activities. A web page and social media accounts have been established, a number of volunteers have already been recruited and the Chair has attended conferences and networking events.

Some MVP volunteers are already actively involved in maternity workstreams in particular areas of their interest, such as breastfeeding.



**DCT
OBJECTIVE
COMMUNITIES BECOME
HEALTHIER, MORE
VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE
WITH IMPROVED
WELL BEING**



Clovelly, North Devon.

CLOVELLY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

The Rural Housing Enablment Team was commissioned to reassess local housing need for Clovelly Parish Council with the aim of supporting the case, with others in the community, for a Community Land Trust (CLT) scheme to go ahead and provide new affordable housing. Households previously identified as in need were written to, to find out if they still needed affordable housing. A Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) attended a drop-in consultation event where the scheme drawings were displayed, and was available to speak with people seeking affordable housing. In addition, the RHE was able to speak face-to-face with individuals who raised concerns about the need for the scheme.

IMPACT

The event identified 18 households in need of affordable housing, 15 of which also met the local connection requirements. Two other households responded by post, also meeting local connection criteria, giving a local need of 17 households with housing need, including singles/ couples and family homes. This provides more than sufficient evidence of need for the proposed scheme of nine affordable rented homes, which would allow local people to stay in Clovelly.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON EXMOOR

A number of Parish Councils spanning the Devon/Somerset border are convinced that local people were having to leave the area because of the lack of housing they can afford. An RHE organised a housing needs survey, which identified 12 households in need of affordable housing. As a result of consultation with all the Parish Councils, an Affordable Housing Working Group has been established to identify sites that could meet some or all of the need.

IMPACT

Not only is the Working Group making progress towards meeting local housing need, this community-led method of working is innovative and forward thinking. It is hoped that it will foster community buy-in and ensure that when houses are built they will be the homes that local people want and will value.

“Thank you for all you have already done in the cause of improving the provision of affordable housing on the Moor.”

Vivian White (Chair of the Affordable Housing Working Group)



DCT OBJECTIVE COMMUNITIES BECOME HEALTHIER, MORE VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE WITH IMPROVED WELL BEING

NEW FUNDING TO TACKLE RURAL LONELINESS

DCT is one of only three Rural Community Councils to receive funding from the Building Connections Fund, a partnership between Government, The National Lottery Community Fund and the Co-op Foundation which was set up in response to the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness to support projects that prevent or reduce loneliness. We have been awarded £98,900 for our Devon HIGHLIGHTS project following a partnership bid with members of the Devon Senior Voice Network, The Creativity Centre Educational Trust (CCET) and Ageing Without Children.



Another Creativity Centre project, The Merry Widows project.

WHAT DEVON SENIOR VOICE MEANS TO ME

Following the merger of Devon Senior Voice (DSV) with DCT in June 2018, lots of engagement work has been taking place to ensure the ongoing stability of the organisation and provide members with access to new volunteering opportunities on a range of community projects.

IMPACT

The DSV network members have access to a range of volunteering opportunities within communities. DSV members can add value to these projects bringing about improved wellbeing (e.g through opportunities on the CAN project see p.7) and resourcefulness (e.g through opportunities on a project to promote the benefits of Smart Meters).

Additionally, being involved in these volunteering opportunities enhances the wellbeing of volunteers and the strong network increases their capacity for resilience.

DCT has worked with Learn Devon to develop a bespoke volunteer training course for DSV volunteers wishing to take on active roles across DCT's broad range of projects. The first course is planned for spring 2019.

One member of the Devon Senior Voice network explained what it means to him:

"Being part of this network makes me feel privileged to help bring about changes that benefit our valued older generation of Devon."

"We are the strong voice for people of Devon offering support, advice, information and giving them the opportunity to improve their quality of life."

"DSV raises awareness of issues that matter to them and act on their behalf, showing we care."

"There are many projects running to help the older generation so they do not feel lonely or isolated. Personally I enjoy being able to make a difference to older people's lives and feel it is very important that we get more people involved as volunteers so more can be achieved."

Plans are also underway to refresh the DSV branding and key messaging, which are being spearheaded by the DSV Strategy Group, made up of volunteer DSV members and the DCT team.



OUR VISION

is of dynamic communities shaping their own futures.

OUR MISSION

is to inspire and support communities to be thriving, resilient and inclusive.

OUR OBJECTIVES

COMMUNITIES BECOME HEALTHIER, MORE VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE WITH IMPROVED WELL BEING

COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER

COMMUNITIES HAVE INCREASED CAPABILITY, SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IN ADDRESSING LOCAL ISSUES

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT

OUR ACTIVITIES

Advice & training for parish & town councils

Helping communities mobilise their assets

Social and community business advice

Enterprise start up and small business support

Supporting communities to create action plans

Helping young people get a start

Reducing fuel poverty

Supporting communities to be prepared for an emergency

Wide range of training opportunities

Providing affordable housing

Village hall and other community buildings support

Helping with sport and play

Improving health and wellbeing for older people

Influencing development through neighbourhood planning

DCT has adopted four social objectives. All of our key activities are measured against one or more of the objectives to enable us to assess impact and to share the evidence with funders, stakeholders, policy makers and commissioners.

