



Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) Large grant fund and Digital Inclusion projects

Overview and Impact

COMF Large Grant Funding and Digital Inclusion

Introduction

As part of the Government's strategy to support communities through the Covid winter of 2021/22 funding was released via a Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). DCT successfully partnered with DeVA and were awarded two grants to deliver two projects:

- Digital Inclusion Partnership
- Large Grants administration of £165 000

“Without this support I would have been homeless at the height of the Covid pandemic”

Client from Encompass Housing

Projects

Digital Inclusion Project

Aim to help 100 of the hardest to reach people become digitally inclusive through developing a network of Digital Befrienders.

The project was developed in partnership with Wellmoor Community Health (North Dartmoor), Teignbridge CVS and Netfriends – a social enterprise providing affordable IT support.



The project achieved all its objectives and Netfriends have just accepted a donation of devices from Torbay Primary care trust that is in its 100's of pieces of equipment that will help take the project forward.

Large Grants

An application structure was put in place within two weeks of receiving the project go ahead and a grant panel consisting of DCT, DeVa and DCC / Health England was established to review applications.

Key Achievements

Digital Inclusion

- Over 100 hard to reach people trained in using the internet
- A network of 20 digital befrienders has been trained
- Over 40 Digital Donations distributed to people
- Over 30 organisations engaged across 4 regions of Devon

Large Grants - Impact

9 Grants were awarded with a total value of £165000 to a range of organisations across Devon:

Encompass Housing	£19 900	Emergency Winter Accommodation
Mid Devon Housing	£18 960	Financial support and guidance to families
Rite to Freedom	£21 115	Mental Health support to those in recovery from drugs and alcohol addiction
Age UK	£12 200	Establish a new Exeter centre to help the elderly
Project Food	£11 918	Provide access to information and food boxes
Devon Link Up	£19 810	Supporting families with autistic children
Action to Prevent Suicide	£25 000	Supporting schoolchildren in accessing mental health support
Home Start Exeter	£22 840	Supporting families in need in Exeter
Resilient Lives - Dough Bros	£13 250	Supporting mens mental health through wood fired pizza making

Large Grants Key Achievements and Impact

- Over 500 nights emergency winter accommodation were provided in the Torridge area at a time of high Covid rates
- 150 people received financial advice and support in mid Devon area

- Over 260 people engaged with Mental Health celebration events and support days
- Age UK opened an new Exeter service and have supported an initial 60 people.
- Project food supplied over 145 boxes and 200 meals to people in food poverty and in addition undertook a tour of schools to provide information of healthy eating.
- Homestart Exeter supported 100 families in the Exeter area with support and advice
- Over 1000 children received workshops on actions to prevent suicide with another 3000 children planned.
- Dough Bro's have invested in a new wood fired pizza oven and are supporting mental health through a range of workshops leading to employment.



Mental Health Day on Dartmoor for people in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction

One of our clients was in the process of leaving a job acrimoniously having had issues with his management and was feeling very stressed and depressed. We got him involved in some physical building work we were doing and used that time to chat with him about his wellbeing and how he would see a group supporting him. During this time, he not only helped us to plan our group, but started a small group with his friends that he called the “Viking Institute”

Dough Bro's - Totness

**DOUGH
BROS**



A GROUP FOR MEN TO GET TOGETHER. MAKE AWESOME PIZZA AND CHAT ABOUT WELLBEING

STARTING TUESDAY MARCH 1ST

RESILIENT
LIVES

COMMUNITY
FUND



Lessons Learnt

Projects were delivered to tight deadlines and required organisations to react extremely quickly.

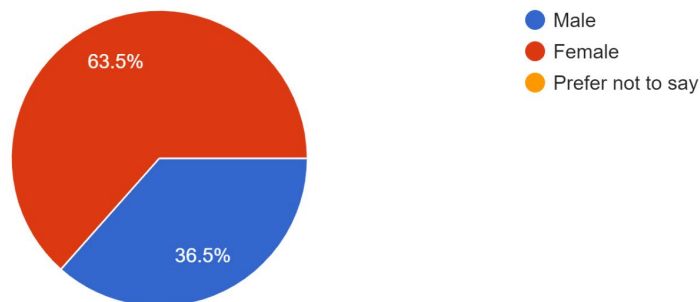
The project paid grants in arrears and this led to some projects being difficult or slow to start as it required some small organisations to use their reserves. Ability to pay organisations in advance would be beneficial.

Areas to Develop

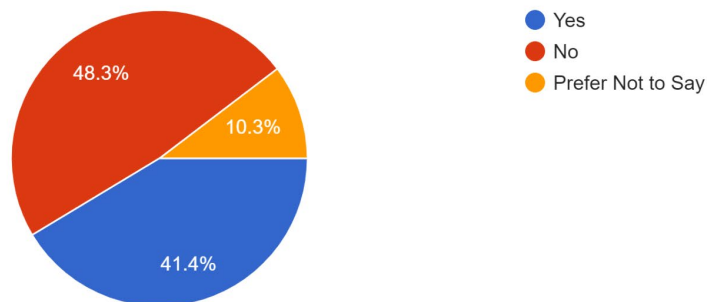
These projects were aimed at Covid support and in emerging from the Winter many of the issues have not been resolved and are still embedded in our communities.

There a wide range of people who are still not digitally included. At a time when services such as health are increasingly only delivered on-line many people suffering from mental and physical health are being excluded.

Gender
52 responses



Does the Client have any physical disabilities?
58 responses



Conclusion

Both projects provided community support over the winter of 2021 / 22 and successfully achieved their targets and outcomes. Suffering was alleviated, hunger abated and support provided to the most vulnerable.