



January - March 2022

DEVON COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER:
MEASURING OUR
IMPACT

Q4 REPORT
2021/22

OUR VISION is of dynamic communities shaping their own futures.

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

**This represents a combined total of the two grant funds DCT is helping to manage: the Covid Outbreak Management Large Grant Fund (pg.3) and the Covid-19 Outbreak Self Isolation Management Grant Fund (pg. 4).*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND



GETTING THE FUNDING TO WHERE IT'S NEEDED

DCT allocated £165,000 in Covid-19 Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) grant funding to nine amazing organisations in Devon which provided vital services to support vulnerable people during the cold winter months between January and March 2022, and continue to do so.

IMPACT: HOW DID THE MONEY HELP PEOPLE IN DEVON...?

260+

People engaged with mental health events and support days



RITE TO FREEDOM

MID DEVON HOUSING

150

people received financial advice and support in Mid Devon

500+

nights of emergency winter accommodation provided in Torridge

ENCOMPASS HOUSING



AGE UK

A new Exeter service opened, engaging

60

older people so far



ACTION TO PREVENT SUICIDE

1,000+

school children received suicide prevention workshops

145+

food boxes and

200+

meals to people in food poverty



PROJECT FOOD

DEVON LINK UP

£19,810

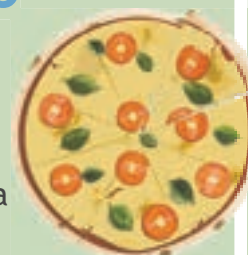
invested in supporting families with autistic children



RESILIENT LIVES - DOUGH BROS

£13,250

invested in supporting men's mental health through wood fired pizza making



100

families in Exeter supported by

HOME START EXETER

Thank you to the grant recipients for sharing with us how some of the money was spent ...

Online meetings for those with addictions

Rite to Freedom facilitated new online multi addictions meetings, supporting the whole of the addiction recovery community. They encompassed all chemical and behavioural addictions.



The workshops were highly interactive, with exploratory discussions to topics, break out rooms and poetry; all designed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on those with addictions. One of the new participants shared the below feedback:



“My first experience with Rite to Freedom was better than could’ve been expected I felt so comfortable and calm but connected to the people in the meeting, able to speak out when invited and reflect on my own issues and past along with others. What was lovely was in amongst the poems, meditations and discussions was laughter we could be relaxed and happy being ourselves in a down to earth atmosphere. I will definitely be going back, I wouldn’t say that were any negatives but good memories, thank you Rite to Freedom”

Food support and free meals

Project Food used the funding to provide free food support and meals, for families who need it.



For example: Kate is a single parent, dependent on benefits with a very limited income. She cares for her teenage daughter and father in law, and lives with mental and physical health conditions. Thanks to Project Food, she is now receiving fresh fruit and veg boxes and free homemade meals, as well as receiving other food support from her local food bank.

SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO WERE SELF-ISOLATING

DCT’s Hannah Reynolds was seconded to Devon County Council to support the allocation of the Covid Outbreak Management Grant (Self-isolation), which also closed in March 2022. The fund allocated £261,880 to 30 voluntary, community and social enterprise groups across Devon to provide help to their local communities with shopping, meals, food deliveries, collecting medicines, befriending phone calls, dog walking and much more.



It is estimated that 33,887 individuals were supported to self-isolate...

- Vulnerable people were able to access vital resources, care and support
- Essential nutrition, medication and care were delivered to people who needed it
- People were supported to get the vaccination
- Loneliness was combatted by the many contacts via phone calls, online or via essential boxes of toiletries, showing those self-isolating that they weren’t forgotten

During Q4, DCT also concluded the delivery of the three Contain Outbreak Management Fund projects we were delivering. Full reports may be viewed here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/covid-19-contain-outbreak-management-fund

1. Creating a network of digital befrienders

This initiative aimed to help 100 people in Devon who didn't have the skills or equipment to use digital technology, become digitally included 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.

Key achievements include:



Over 100 previously digitally excluded people were trained in using the Internet

A network of 20 digital befrienders has been trained



Over 40 donations of new and reconditioned devices were distributed to people

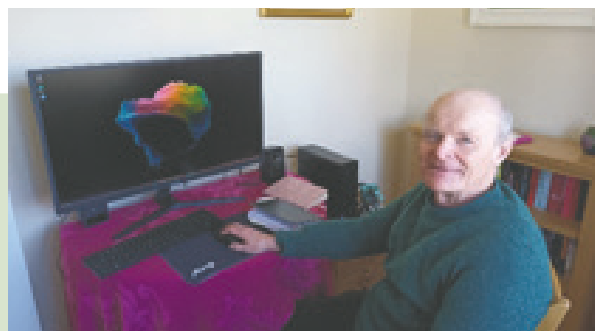
Over 30 organisations were engaged across four districts of Devon

IMPACT

The community is supporting those hardest to reach, potentially isolating or being safe, and assisting them to access support in getting on-line and keeping in touch with family and friends. A new database is making it easier for partners to monitor volunteers and clients and with the ability to review the major problems people are facing.

Mike Bradshaw's story

Mike lives in Budleigh Salterton. He enrolled in the project in late February 2022. He could use basic email functions through the computers at his local library but was keen to get online at home and learn to get the most out of technology.



As Mike had recently purchased a desktop computer but was unsure where to start, our first session mainly focused on setting up the device and creating the required accounts. In subsequent sessions, we went through the use of Zoom (for connecting with friends while playing bridge), Spotify, emailing from home and how to use YouTube.

"Thanks to this programme, Chris [DCT Community Development Officer, Chris Hunt-Watts] has taught me various new skills such as the various keyboard functions, Zoom, Skype, Spotify and other skills. Chris even helped me connect up the tower box and screen and gave me advice on other items I needed to buy. I am a keen bridge player and Chris has helped me so that I can connect with friends and play bridge online. This is a huge bonus to the quality of my life and I am writing to express my thanks and appreciation for the excellent programme to help senior citizens like me gain more confidence and skills with computers. This is especially important for people my age who can often feel cut off (especially during the pandemic) and vulnerable."

"I really hope that this scheme will be extended so that many more senior citizens will be able to benefit from this help which many people will, otherwise, be excluded from. It is a huge advantage to learn from home as opposed to eg a public area."

"Finally, I would like to thank Chris, personally, for all his help and patience. He is a great teacher who explains things clearly and patiently."

2. Understanding and raising awareness of health inequalities

Our second Contain Outbreak Management Fund project aimed to raise awareness of health inequalities across Devon and understand them better from the perspective of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) and public sectors.

To do this we hosted three online workshops, attended by 37 representatives from the VCSE and public sectors, and designed an online questionnaire, which was responded to by 46 representatives from the VCSE sector. We looked at different barriers to healthcare and how inequalities may be reduced in Devon.

IMPACT

We facilitated opportunities for VCSE sector organisations to look collaboratively at how their work is helping to reduce inequalities.

These conversations and the data we collected have laid the foundation for a new Devon VCSE Assembly Specialist Working Group looking at health inequalities.



3. Recovery from the pandemic: community groups and community shops

Our third Contain Outbreak Management Fund project connected with small, community groups, volunteer-led rural mutual aid groups and community shops in Devon.

We facilitated two online surveys (for community groups and community shops), which generated 57 responses from representatives of these organisations, as well as two focus groups. We also had more in-depth conversations with 25 volunteers and staff to understand the impact of the pandemic and their future support needs.

IMPACT

The groups had the chance to share their story with other groups and reflect on what they did well and what they could have done differently. By taking part in the focus group and/or the 1-2-1 conversations, the volunteers got new ideas e.g. on how to reach their community or or available funding. Best practice was shared and new relationships between groups have been formed. It was clear that the groups appreciated the opportunity to discuss their story and to learn from each other.

“It has generated more community spirit through the pandemic, people who had not been involved suddenly seem to get involved collecting prescription and so on.... Lots more community spirit happened as a result of Covid, that has been noticeable.” Volunteer Co-ordinator

“I was falling apart through social isolation until this place opened, and now I have a reason to wake up in the morning.” Community member of Sylvania Community Store, Exeter

DCT OBJECTIVE

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



TRAINING AND ADVICE FOR OVER 500 PEOPLE

During Q4, Devon Community Learning Academy welcomed 519 attendees to 21 training and networking events, including energy saving presentations (pg. 13), benefits and money advice training from Citizens Advice Devon, health inequalities workshops (pg. 6, 15) and more. Many of these workshops were provided free of charge, from funding secured by DCT.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/courses

IMPACT

We have supported over 500 people to increase their skills, confidence and capabilities in addressing issues in their workplaces, homes and communities.

CONSTRUCTING FUTURES DEVON: AN UPDATE

Constructing Futures Devon Ltd (CFDL) is a DCT subsidiary property company which purchases dilapidated properties and brings them up to modern standards using local construction learners and trainers to carry out the works.

To date we have bought three renovated homes on to the market and work continues on our fourth, with approximately 100 16-18 year old learners having the chance to develop their trades on our site in recent months. In partnership with South Devon College, two new apprentices have been employed to support our renovations and develop their careers.



HM Government



GIVING COMMUNITIES A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS

During Q4, DCT has supported two communities to consult with their residents about the future of their neighbourhoods by helping them at various stages of the Neighbourhood Planning process. A Neighbourhood Plan is a formal, adopted document that dictates how an area will develop into the future - with crucial input from local residents themselves.

We worked with the Tavistock Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to develop an initial survey for their residents to gather their opinions and ideas on what should be included in a new Neighbourhood Plan. We worked with them to create the online and print survey, as well as creating promotional materials to encourage local people to get involved. It does not close until May but so far the response has been encouraging, with around 700 responses.

We also supported the community of Braunton to survey local people on the current draft of their Neighbourhood Plan by collaborating on an online and printed survey.



WIN! Fill in our survey and enter a prize draw to win a £50 voucher!*

TAVISTOCK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Have YOUR SAY about the future of TAVISTOCK

TO ACCESS OUR SURVEY:

- Scan the QR code
- Collect a paper copy from the Visitor Information Centre
- Visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TavistockPlanSurvey

<https://tavistockplan.info>
01822 613529 (Town Council Office)
@TavistockPlan
@TavistockPlan
Tavistockplan@gmail.com

Tavistock Plan
TAVISTOCK PLAN

*Please see online/printed survey for T&Cs



Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Public Consultation Survey

March-April 2022

Purpose of Survey
Braunton Parish Neighbourhood Plan activity launched in 2017. An initial public consultation informed residents of what a Neighbourhood Plan is and how it is a mechanism that provides residents an opportunity to have a say in how their neighbourhood – Braunton Parish – should develop.

Residents were asked three questions. What was the Parish like in the past (2002), present (2017) and how should it be in the future (2031)?

The responses would inform and shape the scope of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan. Analysis of residents' responses indicated that the overarching desire was to protect and promote where they lived, with four key themes – Natural Environment, Built Environment, Economy and Housing.

In response to these initial findings a draft Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been developed. We are now asking residents if the draft Plan and its policies address their wishes.

The consultation runs from 14/03/2022 to 29/04/2022, with a public consultation event being held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 19th March at 9.30am – 12.30pm.

The Plan is available to read on line at:
www.brauntonparishneighbourhoodplan.org.uk
www.lovebraunton.org
or can be viewed at Braunton Parish Council Office

View the Plan online

Fill the survey in online www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BrauntonNP

Please drop the completed survey into Braunton Parish Council, Chaloners Road, Braunton EX33 2ES by 29/04/2022. If you require support to return this survey please contact 01271 812131 and we can arrange for collection. This survey is being conducted by Devon Communities Together on behalf of Braunton Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

IMPACT

The Neighbourhood Plan process gives local people an opportunity to have their voices heard when planning how the place where they live and work will develop in the future.

COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN: ENGAGING WITH SELDOM HEARD VOICES

Last quarter we reported on our work so far in supporting Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service with the public consultation of its Community Risk Management Plan.

We finalised our work on this during Q4, having been commissioned to engage with people across the project from groups with seldom heard voices who may not typically be fairly represented. We engaged with 31 people, including: those living in rented accommodation; aged 75+; from an ethnically diverse heritage; with limited mobility; with additional sensory needs; from areas of lower income; and living alone.

IMPACT

These important insights ensure that the views and needs of a diverse range of people will help to make the Community Risk Management Plan more inclusive.



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



COMMUNITY LED HOUSING

One of the services DCT provides through the Devon Community Housing Hub, is housing needs surveys, which allow community led groups and private developers to understand the need for local affordable housing in their area by asking residents directly.

During the last 12 months, 13 surveys have been carried out, including six surveys in Q4 alone. In the last year we have helped identify a need for at least 70 new affordable homes across 13 rural communities in Devon.

Communities we have surveyed in the past few months are: Lypstone, Wilmington, Newton St Cyres, Colyton, Brentor and Manaton, which have so far identified a need for 20 additional affordable homes.



IMPACT

Communities are supported to understand the real need for housing in their areas, and have independent evidence to use in the process of developing homes to meet that need.

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME
ECONOMICALLY
STRONGER

**EMPOWERING
ENTERPRISE
PETROC**



“We liked hearing about alternative ways to recruit, like the magna vitae ... although we have lots of inclusive practices in place, it had made us think about our recruitment process. We are keen to be challenged on the way we do things.”

Participant, Inclusive
Employability Training - charity
sector organisation

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE: CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLES' SUCCESSES

Empowering Enterprise is a Devon-wide partnership project that supports 18-24 year-olds who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) towards a positive outcome. DCT is the external evaluation partner for the project.

During Q4, DCT produced three new case studies for the partnership, to celebrate the successes of the young people and their mentors.

One such case study we produced features Tommy and Georgia, who worked with Eat That Frog in Paignton. Young people who are NEET often report that their sleep patterns are badly disrupted due to lack of routine. Tommy and Georgia talk about how working with Eat That Frog helped them to overcome this. You can watch Tommy and Georgia's story here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DbyElz039U



We also ran the first two in an ongoing series of free online inclusive employment training sessions, which are designed to encourage local employers to consider employing young people not currently in work, by showing the value they could bring.

Book a free space at our next session here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/empowering-employers-for-a-more-inclusive-workforce-tickets-268811100237

IMPACT

The Empowering Enterprise partnership continues to impact on the lives, not just of young people, but of the communities and services which surround them. Throughout Q4 the partnership supported 59 people aged under 25.

Managed by Petroc, Empowering Enterprise is delivered by a partnership of organisations with a wide range of expertise and experience in working with young people across the South West. This is a Building Better Opportunities (BBO) project funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund.



EXPERIENCE WORKS: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR STORIES

DCT is part of the Experience Works partnership whose aim is to support over 1,000 young people across Devon towards a positive future. Managed by Petroc, Experience Works supports young people aged 15-24 who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), or are risk of becoming so.

During Q4 we spent a lot of time meeting with the Partnership, helping them to reflect on the best practice approaches for working with people with high support needs.

We also produced a new report for the overall project, which will be available to read here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/supporting-young-people-empowering-enterprise-and-experience-works

Finally, we were pleased to complete work on our latest video case study featuring young people gaining experience with BlueScreen IT (reported on in the Q3 report), which can be viewed here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wAHUIW1JX8

To find out more about Experience Works, visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/experience-works-0

EXPERIENCE
WORKS

PETROC™



IMPACT

Partner visits, partner review meetings and evaluation reports helped partners reflect on the best practice approaches for working with young people with high support needs.

Furthermore, the conversations between DCT and partners have helped to identify key employer and referral agencies as well as to improve the project's tools and the impact of our employer engagement, which will benefit both the business community and the young people we're working with.

Managed by Petroc, Experience Works is delivered by a partnership of organisations with a wide range of expertise and experience in working with young people across the South West. This project is funded by the European Social Fund.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT

Thanks to funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund, DCT is working with Petroc to provide grants for between £10,000-£30,000 to be used for activities which support the unemployed to make their next steps towards work or education, or to engage with the benefits system.

An example of an organisation DCT helped to apply for the grant is Gifted Women, an organisation working in Tavistock. They heard about the grant scheme through our promotional mail out and got in touch for support. As an organisation they were familiar with helping women to build confidence, but not practiced at delivering employability programmes.

We helped them to draw out their ideas and experience in order to strengthen their application.

We also met with eight youth local organisations to explore best practice around getting young people involved in the services, accessing opportunities and navigating support services.

To apply for the grants, please visit: www.petroc.ac.uk/employers/partnership-opportunities/community-renewal-fund/iyc/iyc-employability-grants-devon/

For support with an application, please contact: harry.bonnell@devoncommunities.org.uk

IMPACT

The impact will be significant, with each grant awarded reaching the most vulnerable in communities. By increasing individual employability, this will also increase local economic resilience.

Our meetings with youth organisations will impact young people in communities across Devon due to the sharing of best practice between the eight organisations involved - and beyond.



“Can’t thank you enough for your time last week which was extremely helpful enabling us to focus our application a bit better.”

Jenny, Director of Gifted Women

The UK Community Renewal Fund is a UK Government programme for 2021/22. This aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK, to pilot programmes and new approaches to build community resilience and prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment. It is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund, which is managed within Devon by Devon County Council.

DOING BUSINESS DIFFERENTLY: SUPPORTING DEVON'S COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

During Q4, DCT launched an exciting new package of support for community businesses, social enterprises, community groups, sole traders, voluntary organisations - and anyone with a great idea for their community.

We are designing and facilitating a series of networking events and workshops (both in-person and online) and 1-2-1 support, covering topics including finding funding, generating new ideas and decarbonisation. We aim to help these enterprises to recover from the pandemic and thrive.

In March we hosted two coffee and networking events, in South Molton and Tiverton.

For more information on the project and to book a free space on one of our workshops, visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/community-regeneration-community-businesses-and-social-enterprises



Devon Social Entrepreneurs Programme



Devon Social Entrepreneurs Programme is led by the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) in partnership with Devon Communities Together, Stir to Action and New Prosperity Devon. It is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund, which is managed by Devon County Council within the Devon area. funding from the European Regional Development Fund.



HELPING DEVON THROUGH THE ENERGY CRISIS

Throughout Q4, we have been supporting people to manage their fuel bills through Big Energy Saving Network community energy presentations and 1-2-1 advice, funded by Western Power Distribution. We have helped over 200 households with energy management advice during the past quarter.

An example of our support is when we made a home visit to a rural, all-electric home, rented from the local authority. Two adults lived in the home, one of whom has a disability. They were in energy debt based on estimated readings, so we asked their provider if they could fit a Smart Meter. The real debt was identified, a debt recovery plan offered and a 'free of debt' monthly payment was advised.

In addition, we helped them review their energy usage and identified realistic savings, as well as supporting them to re-apply for the Warm Homes Discount.

IMPACT

During a hugely challenging time for household energy bills due to the price cap rise, hundreds of households have the knowledge and support to better manage their fuel bills.



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COACHING: FROM FISH TO FLOWERS AND BEYOND



“The coaching with Hannah Reynolds came at the right time for me and my business. I was at a crossroads, working in isolation and feeling my business was stagnating.

“Hannah’s active listening skills, empathic support and real care for me and my business has led to a renaissance.

*“Finally I have clarity on my USP, my ideal client and the value I bring as well as the financial aspects of my business in a way that had eluded me before.
Thank you Hannah!”*

Hilda Kalap March 2022

DCT’s New Start Devon enterprise coaching project provides one-to-one business coaching for Devon start-ups.

During Q4, 13 new participants were recruited on to the programme, bringing the total number currently benefitting from free business coaching to 17.

Two of the enterprises started up this quarter are retail businesses. One, based in rural West Devon, preserves flowers in resin and the other, based in Barnstaple, is a start-up pet shop for fish and reptiles. Three are service-based, particularly around post-pandemic provision of mental health and wellbeing services to individuals and families.

We are also supporting two faith-based community organisations (in Newton St Cyres and Chulmleigh), with Anglican churches that they want to refurbish and extend for wider community use, including potentially a café, arts venues and exhibition spaces.

As well as supporting these enterprises to achieve their aims, New Start Devon also encourages the growth of valuable new services and opportunities for the communities in which they’re based.

New Start Devon can provide 12 hours’ free business coaching for Devon-based new start-ups and developing small business, as well as social enterprises. Contact hannah.reynolds@devoncommunities.org.uk to find out more.

IMPACT

Coachees report that they have gained more confidence in their abilities, developed a greater understanding of their customers and rejuvenated their interest in their enterprise and sense of self worth. As one coachee puts it ‘*I have moved from stagnation to renaissance*’.

Local communities benefit from new services being developed by the entrepreneurs.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



HM Government

New Start Devon is receiving funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

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

An interactive map showing health data at various Devon locations, as well as relevant health initiatives. View the full version here: <https://tinyurl.com/4h69dztt>



RURAL DIGITAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES

DCT led this 4-month research project aimed to address digital inequality in clinical pathways. It was one of 10 across the UK, funded by NHS X and supported by Thrive by Design. The funding was jointly secured by DCT and Devon Integrated Care System, and we collaborated with community wellbeing charity Wellmoor on its delivery.

The objective of the research was to gain insights from people in rural communities - particularly those living more than 20 miles from their nearest acute hospital - about their experiences of, and barriers to accessing, online healthcare.

Over the course of the project we engaged with 239 people through focus groups, workshops, conversations, emails and a questionnaire. During Q4 we held a final workshop to present our findings. You can read the final report here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing



IMPACT

We have identified some of the issues affecting older people in rural areas when accessing healthcare online. We gave a voice to numerous people and signposted individuals and groups to resources and initiatives that could help. The issues were flagged up with primary and secondary healthcare providers and will feed into new strategies.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PILOT WITH SOVEREIGN

Our current pilot programme with Sovereign Housing came to an end in March 2022. During the Partnership we worked with Sovereign to measure and develop existing and new community initiatives.

Overall, the project was able to provide community development services that were beneficial to Sovereign residents and we worked closely with the appropriate teams within Sovereign on several service deliveries, and also the co-creation of bespoke pilot projects for the residents. We look forward to working together with Sovereign again.

DEVON MVP

Devon Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP) is a group that gives parents and parents-to-be a voice in developing maternity care in Devon.

During Q4 DCT supported MVP to appoint a new vice chair via a democratic election process.

The team continued to undertake valuable initiatives across Devon, including providing user-centered films about positive birth experiences to the Midwifery course at the University of Plymouth providing feedback on the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital's new Breastfeeding Journal, as well as looking at guidelines for more inclusive language.

IMPACT

Maternity care services across Devon continue to be developed and improved with users at the centre.



WELLBEING WORKS: TAKING THE TIME TO FOCUS ON WELLNESS

Wellbeing Works is a Devon County Council funded initiative that provides 1-2-1 wellness check-ins and a series of interactive wellbeing workshops, providing individuals and organisations with tools and techniques to improve their wellbeing.

During Q4, DCT laid the foundations for this year-long project, organising a series of exciting online workshops with guest facilitators as well as setting up the infrastructure for the check-ins and creating a distinctive brand for the project. The first workshops and check-ins take place in April, so more will be available in the next quarterly report.

Wellbeing Works is open to many organisations and individuals in Devon. To find out more and book a free workshop or wellbeing check-in, visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/wellbeing-works



IMPACT

This programme will support people in work and who may be seeking work or unable to work, to improve their wellbeing and confidence, and mitigate against the ongoing after effects of the pandemic.

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT



“We used our plan to co-ordinate a response to a 48hr power outage to a neighbourhood already identified as vulnerable in our plan, and opened a place of safety at the village hall to provide a place for them to have a warm place to stay, hot drinks and, if required, hot food. As part of the debrief, an application has been sent to your grant fund for an emergency generator plus other items for any future emergency response.”

DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

The Devon Community Resilience Forum (DCRF) continues to support local communities to become more resilient through the creation of community emergency plans, and providing funding and advice.

During Q4, a communication drive led to many more Parish Councils and Emergency Planning Groups contacting us for advice, producing new, or updating, emergency plans and applying for grants. 32 community groups were supported, 17 new plans were developed and over £5,300 was allocated to communities to use for resilience equipment or planning.

We also began planning for our first Devon Community Resilience Forum in-person event in over two years, on 23rd May at Filleigh Village Hall. Book a free place here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/devon-community-resilience-forum-resilience-event-tickets-314433819017

IMPACT

Increasing the number of Community Emergency Plans in Devon puts communities in a more resilient position in the event of an emergency, protecting people and property.



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DEVON LAND USE FRAMEWORK

DCT is collaborating with the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and the Westcountry Rivers Trust in the co-production and facilitation of a new Devon Land Use Framework, which will establish and test principles that guide decisions on land use.

During Q4, DCT has mainly been contributing to the project's design and its engagement strategy, with workshops being planned for June and September 2022. Contact laura.dixon@devoncommunities.org.uk



DCT is one of the key partners in this new programme, which is led by Devon County Council and focuses on identifying a range of replicable low-cost flood resilience actions that can be delivered where traditional flood defences may not work.

During Q4, DCT continued to contribute to the stakeholder engagement strategy and supported one of the first pilot projects with planning activities. We are currently planning engagement activities with two communities.

IMPACT

Awareness is raised about the programme, its aims and how to get involved; broadening its scope to identify relevant actions and build communities' resilience.

Contact laura.dixon@devoncommunities.org.uk



COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: END OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

We advised 143 village halls and community buildings during Q4. We continued to share the guidance for village halls prepared by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) around Covid-19 restrictions, including how to navigate the ending of all legal Covid-19 restrictions.

We also delivered our latest in-person training session for community building trustees and committee members, covering valuable knowledge and skills around operating a successful community building.

IMPACT

Communities can benefit from the full services of these vital community hubs and the committees can operate with confidence.



Contact martin.rich@devoncommunities.org.uk

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES ARE
SUPPORTED TO DEVELOP
STRATEGIES TO PROTECT
AND REGENERATE
THEIR NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT

Contact geraldine.addo@devoncommunities.org.uk



NEW: COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GRANTS

DCT is currently running the Wild About Devon Grant Scheme, that will help communities across Devon to take action for wildlife as part of the Local Nature Partnership's Wild About Devon initiative - and the urgent need to tackle the Ecological Emergency.

The scheme seeks to provide a simple way for community groups to access small amounts of funding to kickstart or advance their wildlife projects.

The Grant scheme was launched in March 2022 and so far there have been 38 applications which are being assessed.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/wild-about-devon-community-wildlife-grant-scheme

NEW: DEVON FOOD RESCUE

DCT is pleased to be a partner in this new project that will work with communities to rescue and redistribute surplus food to individuals, households and groups in order to reduce food waste, feed people and build community resilience.

In this current phase, the project is working with relevant stakeholders in two Devon communities to establish community fridges. Food Rescue held a drop-in session at Exeter Library to get together those who may be getting involved in making this project happen.

The project is funded by The National Lottery and is being delivered by Devon County Council. DCT's role is to provide strategic support as well as evaluate the impact of the project.





OUR ACTIVITIES

Community and parish plans

Advice & training for parish & town councils

Supporting social enterprise and community businesses

Supporting communities to prepare for an emergency

Providing training and skills opportunities for young people

Reducing fuel poverty

Tackling rural isolation and loneliness

Providing a wide range of training opportunities

Enabling affordable housing

Helping with sport and play facilities

Influencing development through neighbourhood planning

Helping communities mobilise their assets

Enterprise start up and small business support

COMMUNITIES BECOME HEALTHIER, MORE VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE WITH IMPROVED WELLBEING

COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER

COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT

Supporting village halls and other community buildings

Improving health and wellbeing for people

OUR OBJECTIVES

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

COMMUNITIES ARE SUPPORTED TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES TO PROTECT AND REGENERATE THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

DCT has adopted five 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.