



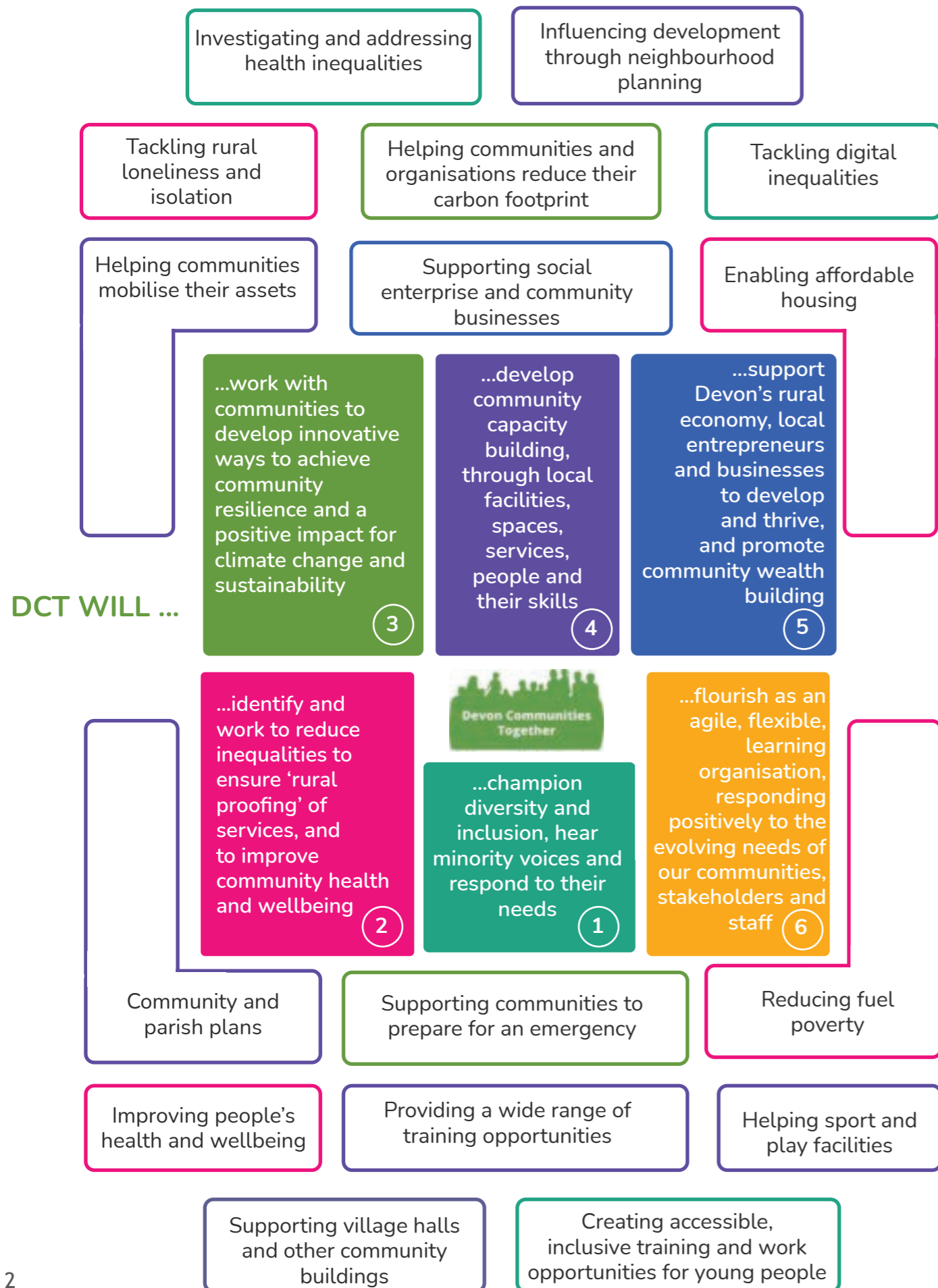
Devon County Council Grant Funding Agreement

Devon Communities Together:
Measuring Our Impact

Q1 April - June 2022



6 NEW SOCIAL OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY DCT FOR 2022/23 AND BEYOND. THEY SIT AT THE CENTRE OF ALL OUR ACTIVITIES ...



OBJECTIVE

.....champion diversity and inclusion, hear minority voices and respond to their needs



4 meetings with 20 organisations to collaborate on the needs of Ukrainian refugees

4 workshops facilitated at the Devon Health Inequalities Symposium



The results from 2 digital inequalities initiatives shared with One Devon Integrated Care System Digital Inclusion Strategic Group



28 attendees at our Inclusive Employment workshops to encourage opportunities for young people to gain work experience



15 young people engaged with by DCT to understand their journeys towards employment

DEVON AS A WELCOMING NEW HOME FOR PEOPLE FROM UKRAINE

The VCSE sector is supported to collaborate and access funding to allow us to best support our new Ukrainian neighbours.

DCT is helping the Devon Ukrainian Association (DUA) to change from a voluntary organisation into a structured business organisation to enable it to access a greater variety of funding opportunities. We've helped to create a business plan structure and have begun work on new policies.

We've also established a Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) 'touchpoint meeting' at which we can collaborate to address the needs of Ukrainian refugees. So far we have hosted four touchpoint meetings with over 20 organisations. Find out more about where to access local support around Ukrainian refugees by visiting our new community resource page: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/devon-homes-ukraine-community-resource-page



ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND DIGITAL EXCLUSION

By listening to a variety of people and communities, especially seldom heard voices and those who struggle with access challenges, we are supporting healthcare organisations to become more inclusive and tackle inequalities.

DCT is working on several initiatives designed to investigate and address issues around health inequalities and, in particular, digital healthcare.

We facilitated four workshops at the Devon Health Inequalities Symposium in April and our CEO is co-chairing the new VCSE Assembly specialist Health Inequalities Hub, which met for the first time in June.

DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

DCT and Wellmoor successfully completed a pair of projects earlier this year, both with a focus on how to support people at risk from digital isolation. We presented the results of both projects at the new One Devon Integrated Care System Digital Inclusion Strategic Group, which DCT is actively involved with, and are now preparing a list of priority areas to be considered for funding and included in the strategy.



CASE STUDY

ILDI'S STORY

Ildi is a carer for her daughter who has Down's Syndrome, as well as having her own health issues. During the pandemic, there was concern for her daughter's mental health and she was able to access support via video consultation, on behalf of her daughter.

In our video, she talks about the pros and cons of obtaining help for her daughter, especially during the pandemic. She speaks eloquently about how the ability to access a video consultation was a lifeline and how not having to travel to see a clinician can greatly reduce mental distress. Ildi can talk strongly and passionately on this topic; she herself is a care ambassador and an advocate for equal access to health in North Devon. View the full interview with Ildi here: <https://tinyurl.com/kvfenhbn>



“
[the distorted image due to digital backgrounds on video calls] ...could be really scary, especially for people who have got dementia, alzheimers, [or] any mental health issues ...”

BRIDGING THE GAPS IN NORTH DARTMOOR AND ILFRACOMBE

We have recently begun work on an exciting new project that builds on recent health inequalities work in Devon, this time focusing on North Dartmoor and Ilfracombe.

Ilfracombe has one of the highest rates of income deprivation in the UK and has huge disparities in health outcomes across mortality rates, early cancer diagnosis, smoking rates and levels of obesity.

North Dartmoor Primary Care Network covers a number of rural towns and villages with an ageing population, high levels of mental health issues

when compared to the rest of the county and a real challenge in terms of access to mainstream services.

Community Connectors will be recruited to lead volunteers to try and bridge the gaps in health equalities at a grass roots level. Using volunteers with lived experience will help us to get under the skin of rural and coastal deprivation and the effect it has on health and happiness.

Although the project has only just begun, we have been working with our partners to look at how we can measure the changes and what our target areas will look like with reduced inequalities, so we can create objectives and drive the initiative forward.



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

People are empowered and funded to make their workplaces more accessible and give people a chance to show their potential.

Our Empowering Enterprise* and Experience Works** projects support young people who face challenges in accessing employment or education. One of DCT's main roles is to engage with local employers to promote inclusivity and accessibility in the workplace, which we have done through facilitating six inclusive employment online training sessions with 28 attendees. We've also built relationships with 18 further employers, and at least five opportunities for young people to gain experience (such as placements or mock interviews) have been created. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/experience-works-0 / www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/building-better-opportunities-empowering-enterprise

Additionally, thanks to funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund, we have been working with Petroc to provide grants for between £10,000-£30,000 to be used for activities which support unemployed people to make their next steps towards work or education, or to engage with the benefits system. We've supported nine applicants, at least four of which have been successful, and are supporting partner organisations to develop a best practice model around supporting youth workers and young people accessing and developing volunteering and work experience placements.



CASE STUDY

HOSPISCARE

In April 2022, DCT began working with Hospiscare, the adult hospice charity covering Exeter and East Devon. As a charity, they rely heavily on volunteers to staff their shops and their Head of Retail, Helen Hutter, expressed a keen interest in learning more about young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) and how Hospiscare could provide opportunities to volunteer.

We facilitated a number of Inclusive Employment training sessions at Hospiscare, attended by 18 staff including shop managers and members of the HR and volunteering teams. One exciting outcome of the sessions is that Hospiscare is now looking to make changes to its recruitment process; for example, introducing a Magna Vitae to replace the existing CV and application form. A Magna Vitae allows an applicant to give a frank and honest account of the difficulties they have faced during their life and how this has affected their employment opportunities. We have also already had interest from several Empowering Enterprise partners to place young people into volunteering roles.



"I found it most helpful to know that so many young people are in need of help and that we should look more to the person as an individual and not what's on paper."



* 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. **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.

OBJECTIVE

... identify and work to reduce inequalities to ensure 'rural proofing' of services, and to improve community health and wellbeing



161 bookings for 11 online wellbeing workshops

4,000 people reached on social media about new initiative to tackle loneliness with transport



3 contacts with sports and play facilities to give advice



2,834 households given the opportunity to input into 3 housing needs surveys

22,597 discounted litres of oil ordered through the Devon Oil Collective



2 community fridges established in Okehampton and Exeter



95 households/people supported to manage their energy bills



MINIMISING THE IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS

Both individuals and care professionals have the knowledge and tools to reduce energy output and manage fuel bills - and support others to do so - while keeping homes warm.

During Q1, DCT finalised our work on Western Power Distribution-funded winter project to provide advice and support to vulnerable households at risk of fuel poverty. As well as well individual advice we also attended public events and carried out dedicated training and outreach events to cascade the advice further through our communities to reach those most in need of help with their energy bills.

- 44 people received basic energy advice

- 16 people were given more in-depth, tailored support via either a home visit or telephone consultations
- 35 front line support staff from care agencies were trained to give advice to their vulnerable clients, including at at Newton Abbot Carers' Day; a full day session supported by a variety of advisory organisations, support groups, therapists, and support workers



WORKING TOWARDS BETTER WELLBEING

People have new tools and techniques to improve their wellbeing, feel more relaxed and reduce their stress and work and at home.



There are lots of reasons that people's wellbeing may have taken a knock over the past few years, not least the effects of the pandemic and various lockdowns. In April, we launched a new Devon County Council-funded wellbeing programme, Wellbeing Works, to support people and businesses in Devon to prioritise their wellbeing and resilience as we continue to recover from the pandemic.

We are offering free 1-2-1 wellbeing check-ins (online or over the phone) and a range of online wellbeing workshops - all fully funded - to help support the participants' wellbeing.

CASE STUDY

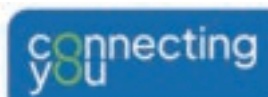
PHOTOGRAPHY FOR WELLBEING

An example of one of these workshops was April's 'Photography for Wellbeing' workshop, led by photographer Vanessa Miles, who shared her experiences and advice on how pausing to take photographs can boost your wellbeing. Before the session every participant was asked to send their own pictures to Vanessa. During the session participants were given the chance to talk about their pictures and hear others' perceptions of their image. Participants left the session feeling inspired, and said that the session encouraged them to take more images to capture the moments in their daily lives.

“[The session] was the first thing that I have been perky enough to attend since [my] accident 5 weeks ago and the topic drew me in so thank you.”

Other online sessions included Wellbeing at Work, Tai Chi, Real Food and more. Future 1-2-1 check-ins and online workshops can be booked here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/wellbeing-works

“[the individual] will be booking in for another session [she] said that it was nice to speak to someone impartial and she found it really helpful.”



TACKLING LONELINESS WITH TRANSPORT

Isolated people of all ages in Devon will benefit from new and improved public transport experiences, encouraging them to make new connections and explore new places to help combat loneliness.

'Connecting You' is a new Devon-wide project, led by Devon County Council, which seeks to address the issues of loneliness and isolation using transport.

The project is just starting, but a number of exciting activities will be taking place soon! These include travel trainers who will provide support to help passengers gain confidence in using public transport, a travel buddy system, working with public and community transport operators to improve the journey for passengers, a community rail project in Okehampton and a 'Try the Train' initiative on the Waterloo line between Exeter and Axminster. There's also a community grant scheme available!

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/connecting-you





ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2,834 households have had the opportunity to have their say on potential new affordable housing in their communities, which could help people stay within their local areas.

www.devonhousinghub.org.uk

The Devon Community Housing Hub is a partnership of organisations committed to establishing new, affordable housing for local people in rural communities. One key service it provides is Housing needs Surveys, which are sent to every household in a particular parish, or community, to help establish whether people need new housing in their area. Between April and June we completed three surveys that had previously been distributed (with an encouraging response rate of 31%) and issued three new surveys to 2,834 households.

FOOD RESCUE

Two community fridges have been established, in Exeter and Okehampton, which reduce food waste and help to feed people, some of whom may otherwise struggle to afford food.

Community Fridges are the key element of Food Rescue. They are publicly accessible spaces that allow surplus food from across the supply chain to be given away for free to prevent the food becoming waste.

There are more than 10 volunteers managing the two new Community Fridges the project has set up in Exeter and Okehampton and work is ongoing to formulate community events, cooking skills, for example. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-food-rescue

The project is funded by the National lottery and being delivered by Devon County Council, with DCT as an Impact and Evaluation partner.



OBJECTIVE

...work with communities to develop innovative ways to achieve community resilience and a positive impact for climate change and sustainability



£4,098 in grants awarded to fund community resilience initiatives



6 new/updated Community Emergency Plans published



Contributed to 2 Net Zero Task Force meetings



27 community wildlife grants awarded



30 communities represented at Devon Community Resilience Forum event



TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AT COMMUNITY LEVEL



Through funding and tailored support, communities can take action to drive their own climate initiatives.

Almost all of our projects touch on the climate emergency in some way but some of our initiatives directly support communities and organisations to make a difference.

WILD ABOUT DEVON COMMUNITY GRANTS

We closed our Wild About Devon Grant Scheme in June, after a hugely successful campaign during which we allocated 27 grants from 77 applications. The fund was set up to 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. This grant scheme is financed by the Devon Environment Foundation, Devon Communities Together, and Devon County Council.

“Thank you so much for the funding for the pond at South Dartmoor Community College. ... We will use this not only to encourage wildlife into the school grounds but also for teaching the children about science, wildlife and the environment.”

ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Devon County Council invited us to deliver training for its Climate Emergency Group on Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approaches, and their relevance for achieving behaviour change. ABCD focuses on the existing assets in a community; understanding and engaging them to achieve community development. For example, a district councillor, wishing to use an ABCD approach was frustrated that there were not groups/events explicitly addressing the targets she had been tasked with – and so did not know where to start her approach. We shared an example from our work of a community (Bondleigh) that had tailored its annual fayre to feature an environmental theme,



FUTURE LAND USE

Devon will have a robust framework, setting out how we manage our precious land in the future.

The Devon Land Use Framework project brings together a wide network to design, test, develop and review a Land Use Framework for Devon. DCT continues to lead the project's design group, with 169 stakeholders actively engaged and the outline framework having been agreed. We have a list of potential sites where we can test the new framework and we will be narrowing it down to three over the summer. You can view the longlist here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-land-use-framework



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

People and property are better protected from emergencies such as flooding, and communities have greater knowledge and access to funding to develop their resilience.



DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

DCT continues to facilitate the Devon Community Resilience Forum (DCRF), which supports communities to create and maintain their Community Emergency Plans. Our first live DCRF event in over two years took place in May, with over 30 communities represented and more than 50 attendees hearing from expert speakers and learning about the latest resilience developments.

It was also a pleasure to reward some incredible community volunteers for all their hard work throughout the pandemic, including our overall winner, Laura Camp, who created an “Acts of Kindness” community group in Chudleigh to support people during Covid.

This quarter we distributed over £4,000 in community resilience grants, including to the parish of Lynton & Lynmouth that was able to buy a generator to power a community space in the event of a power outage, providing a safe haven for local residents. <https://tinyurl.com/cm8e3az3>

“Just a quick note to let you know our fantastic new generator arrived this week THANK YOU!” Kelvin Harris, Clerk

DEVON RESILIENCE INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Sometimes, traditional flood prevention methods may not be suitable for particular communities. We are working with Devon County Council and a wider partnership to investigate replicable low-cost initiatives and have identified two pilot communities; South Pool and Exton. We've set up community engagement plans for the two communities and look forward to supporting the communities to develop and deliver their own flood resilience interventions, and identify wider benefits and alternative funding models, which can then be used by other communities. <https://tinyurl.com/2p87uud5>



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OBJECTIVE

...develop community capacity building, through local facilities, spaces, services, people and their skills

604 people came along to our 30 training, learning and networking events



80 contacts with village halls to support them specialist advice, including 42 pieces of funding advice



Supported 2 parishes to gather and evaluate community ideas and opinions on their Neighbourhood Plans



1 community grant scheme of between £500 - £3,000 launched



HELPING VILLAGE HALLS TO EVOLVE AND THRIVE

We have been as busy as ever providing support to our member village halls and other community buildings, responding to 80 requests for information or advice.

Communities enjoy well equipped, well managed accessible venues where they can socialise, meet, participate in activities, celebrate and access vital services.

We have enjoyed travelling all over Devon to meet with village hall committees, including facilitating a Q&A session, two training sessions attended by 28 trustees and four site visits to support major refurbishments or new builds.

CASE STUDY

ZEAL MONACHORUM

Zeal Monachorum Village Hall is a former school room dating from the Victorian period, serving a rural community of around 400.

DCT was first consulted over an idea to build a new hall on the outskirts of the village. We advised them to undertake a community consultation, which revealed a preference for retaining and improving the present hall.

Having helped establish what the community wanted and needed, we met with the project team to advise on project management, feasibility study funding and professional services. We were able to signpost the team to architectural services providers and they have since interviewed three companies, prior to making a funding application.

The community of Zeal Monachorum are well on their way to a community-driven revamped community space for all!

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UPSKILLING OUR COMMUNITIES

Individuals and community organisations benefitted from opportunities to learn from experts and each other.

We facilitated 30 online learning and networking events for over 600 people over the past three months. This covered a whole variety of topics from wellbeing sessions to small business funding advice and decarbonisation tips!

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/courses



GIVING COMMUNITIES A VOICE

Communities are supported to share their views on matters that will affect the places they live and work.

Providing the opportunity for people to have a say in the future of their local areas, services and facilities is an important aspect of our community development work.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

DCT has been funded by Low Carbon Alliance to conduct an independent community consultation for the proposed Ford Oaks Solar and Green Infrastructure Facility in Marsh Green. Our role is to consult with the communities of Rockbeare and Aylsebeare to gather their thoughts and ideas about what services and facilities they would like a potential Community Benefit Fund to invest in. To date, we have visited the communities at several key events and have begun to design a community survey, with much more engagement activity to come this summer.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

We've been supporting both Tavistock and Braunton with their neighbourhood planning journeys. These plans will be formally adopted and shape the future developments of the local areas. Having helped the steering groups to create and publicise community surveys during Q1 we begun to analyse the data and produce independent reports for the parishes. We've also conducted more in-depth interviews with some Tavistock residents to gain some insightful qualitative data.



BUILDING FUNDRAISING CAPACITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

We've got over 60 years' experience in helping communities access funding to create positive change in their local areas.

GROWING COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND

People will directly benefit from new and improved funded community initiatives.

We're pleased to be supporting Devon County Council to administer this new grant fund, which will provide grants between £500 and £3,000. The funding will support proactive, effective, measurable, and sustainable actions to enable individuals and communities to build self-reliance and community resilience, reduce food and fuel inequalities and improve mental health and wellbeing, as well as respond to the climate emergency.

www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund



FUNDING NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A community is supported to discover and access funding routes to provide exciting new community facilities.

DCT is providing strategic fundraising support to Rose Ash Parish Council for a community benefit village car park, storage facility and additional event space, which will benefit everyone in this rural community.

BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE

Construction students and apprentices have been learning their trades on a real site, helping to bring a new family home to the local market.

Constructing Futures Devon Lts is a subsidiary company of DCT that renovates and sells dilapidated properties, providing new family homes and giving local construction students a chance to develop their trades on real sites, preparing them for their future careers. During Q1, work on our latest property has focused on kitchen fitting and decorating, ready for marketing this summer. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/constructing-futures

Constructing Futures is partly funded by £574,320 from the Heart of the South West LEP's Growth Deal funding. The Heart of the South West LEP's total Growth Deal is worth £598m; including £239m from Government and £359m match funding. Over the lifetime of the Growth Deal: 2015 - 2021; HotSW LEP estimates the investment will create up to 22,000 new jobs and 11,000 new homes.



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OBJECTIVE

...support Devon's rural economy, local entrepreneurs and businesses to develop and thrive, and promote community wealth building



11 new clients signed up for free enterprise coaching



230 members of Devon Social Enterprise Network

12 clients completed 12 hours' 1-2-1 coaching



11 innovation plans and 5 decarbonisation plans created by Devon enterprises, supported by DCT



100 attendees at training and peer support events for enterprises



9 enterprise themed workshops delivered



93 individual support consultations facilitated for small businesses/ social enterprises

ENCOURAGING NEW ENTERPRISE

Burgeoning entrepreneurs are supported to turn their ideas into a viable enterprise.

Community businesses are hugely important to our regional economy. At the moment we're funded for two projects to support local entrepreneurs.

FREE 1-2-1 SUPPORT AND TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Thanks to funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund, since April we have been able to engage social enterprises, community groups and small businesses through fully funded 1-2-1 support sessions, networking events and training workshops. During Q1 we worked with over 150 small and rural businesses and delivered 16 events - a mixture of online and in-person. We've focused on helping people to access funding, finance and grants, developing innovative ideas and reducing carbon output. 11 enterprises have created new Innovation Plans and five organisations have completed Decarbonisation Plans.

Devon Social Entrepreneurs Programme



ENTERPRISE COACHING

Our New Start Devon project receives funding from the European Regional Development Fund to provide free 1-2-1 business coaching to start-ups and small businesses. During Q1, our business coach, Hannah Reynolds,, worked with 15 local entrepreneurs on topics including Business Model Canvas, Personal Survival Budget, Balanced Horizon (work/life), business plans and cashflow.



www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/enterprise-coaching-new-start-devon



CASE STUDY

HILDA'S STORY

Hilda Kilap is a Women's Empowerment Coach. Since working with us she has...



- Completed a cash flow forecast and become clearer on her financial forecast
- Worked out her USP, ideal client, service and product offerings, and pricing
- Developed new marketing messaging
- Created two new group coaching programmes

"I have so much clarity I did not have before and a foundation from which to make empowered business decisions."

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.



"I was pleased to hear from a person with relevant practical advice on setting up and executing a plan to help my organisation to go ahead."

OBJECTIVE

...flourish as an agile, flexible, learning organisation, responding positively to the evolving needs of our communities, stakeholders and staff

By focusing on our staff team and our internal processes we are continuing to improve our effectiveness and build on the impact that we are able to create in communities throughout Devon.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

DCT staff have been undertaking training to allow us to respond to the needs of our projects and services. During Q1, this has included design led thinking, data led marketing, video editing, web design and social media.



FOCUSING ON WELLBEING

We have been focusing on our staff wellbeing, to build the resilience of our team and allow us to keep supporting communities. We've introduced a wellbeing section to our six-weekly team meetings, planned a 'wellbeing away morning' for all staff and have gathered a list of wellbeing reading resources to share with staff and our wider audiences: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/dct-wellbeing-reading-list



A NEW SYSTEM FOR DCT!

We have been working with a specialist software provider to create a bespoke new system for DCT that will allow us to proactively manage our projects in one place. It will also enable us to use the decades of data we've amassed in an increasingly intelligent way. Not only will this new system improve our efficiency but it will make us an even more agile organisation and be of a huge benefit to the communities we work with, our funders and our stakeholders. We're currently in the testing phase and can't wait to launch it in the autumn!

