



October - December 2021

DEVON COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER:
MEASURING OUR
IMPACT

Q3 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.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**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. 6).*



- 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



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CV-19 THIS WINTER



HELPING TO DELIVER GRANT FUNDING TO COMMUNITIES

DCT is proud to be part of the Devon Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector partnership that successfully applied for over £1m in COMF (Contain Outbreak Management Fund) grant funding being used to support people in communities and to help us learn more about the impact of the pandemic on Devon communities. DCT is directly managing £331,000 of this funding.

Find out more below and on the following pages...

COVID OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT LARGE GRANT FUND

We are working in partnership with DeVA and Living Options Devon to administer the three community grant funding streams through the Devon County Council Public Health Covid Outbreak Management Fund. The fund awards grants to VCSE organisations to increase the support for people over the winter months in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

DCT is directly managing the Large Grant Fund, which awards between £10,000 and £25,000. There is also an Equality and Diversity Fund being managed by Living Options Devon and a Small Grants Scheme being operated by DeVA and the local CVs: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/covid-outbreak-management-fund

During Q3 we awarded three grants from the Large Grant Fund, totalling £51,000.

Successful applicants so far include and emergency accommodation service (see Encompass Emergency Housing), a financial advice and support service, and a winter mental health festival.



ENCOMPASS EMERGENCY HOUSING

One of the first applications was from Encompass to provide emergency accommodation.

“Torridge and North Devon have some of the highest Covid cases in the country, therefore it is essential that we are able to offer single units of emergency winter accommodation to further reduce the spread of COVID across the rough sleeper community”

They were awarded a grant of £8,000 and commenced delivery almost immediately, with two families having already been supported by the end of December.

As well as awarding grants to community organisations (pg. 3), DCT is also pleased to be using the funding to deliver three new projects to make a difference in Devon this winter...

1. Supporting digitally excluded people in Devon

The first of these is a Digital Befriending programme in partnership with Netfriends, Wellmoor and Teignbridge CVS, which aims to help 100 people who are unable to successfully get online and access the Internet due to poor (or no) equipment, or lack of skills or confidence. We want those who are currently ‘digitally excluded’ to be able to enjoy the benefits of the digital world, especially while Covid-19 means that many more aspects of our daily lives are now online, from chatting to family and friends to medical appointments and much more.

We can offer:

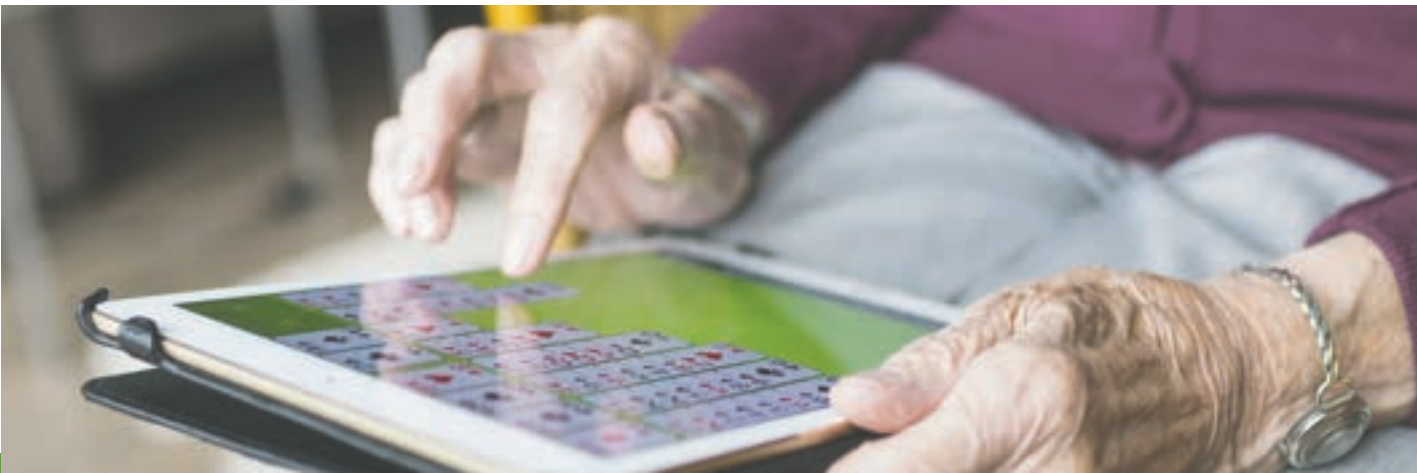
- Device checks
- Upgrades and/or repairs (worth up to £125)
- Short-term loan of a device
- Support with purchasing a new device (+ £100 contribution)

- Data/broadband connection support
- A Digital Friend to help people with all the skills they need to enjoy the benefits of the digital world!

So far, the Partnership has trained a Digital Befriender, linked up with 23 other organisations to seek referrals into the programme and has sourced the first devices that will be lent out. We are also pleased to say the first people are already being supported by the project, as highlighted by MH’s story (below), kindly contributed by our Partners at Wellmoor.

DCT started actively promoting the Digital Befrienders in January 2022 and we are looking forward to supporting many more people like MH between now and the end of March 2022.

If you know someone who could benefit from this support, please contact chris.hunt-watts@devoncommunities.org.uk



MH is a woman in her 70s who lives alone in North Lew, near Okehampton. Before being referred to the Digital Befriending programme she had never used the Internet, and was relying on her landline to keep in touch with friends and family, none of whom live nearby. Through this project she has been using a loaned tablet and been supported by a Befriender to join an online activity group and to use Google to search for history articles that interest her. MH mentioned that learning how to use the internet is “like a space landing, it’s a whole new world! But with Wellmoor’s help I feel much more confident”.

However she was finding the tablet frustrating due to the touch screen, and has a laptop given to her by a friend that she found easier to use. The laptop was old and slow, so MH has been referred to Netfriends for a device repair/upgrade and she will soon be surfing the Internet!

I want to use the Internet but I'm not sure how ...

Covid has made me realise what I'm missing by not being online ...

Up to £125 of FREE equipment upgrades and personalised support to get online this winter

07903 591481 / chris.hunt-watts@devoncommunities.org.uk

2. Understanding rural health inequalities

During Q3, DCT began working on an exciting new piece of intelligence gathering and research that will be looking at health inequalities in rural communities. Did you know that the health people can enjoy and expect in Devon varies widely at neighbourhood level?

- There’s a life expectancy difference of 15+ years between the most affluent communities and our most deprived*
- In one Devon location, 33.3% children are living in poverty compared to 0.8% in another community*
- 8.2% people in an inner-city street in Devon have a long-term health condition compared to 0.8% in a rural location*

DCT is hosting a series of online workshops in February and March for VCSE organisations to raise awareness of health inequalities in Devon and to provide an opportunity to explore how we can work together to tackle the issues.

If you represent a VCSE organisation we’d love you to join us at one of the workshops on February 25th, March 8th or March 16th. This is an opportunity to contribute to this exciting piece of research!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yw5s5zhw> to register for a workshop.

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

Our third funded project is another exciting new piece of research that we are undertaking with community groups, mutual aid groups and community shops across Devon.

These groups have always played a vital role in supporting the most vulnerable members of their communities and we aim to engage with them to understand their concerns, ideas and needs through face-to-face and telephone research, and Zoom workshops, which will be shared with local government, funders and decision makers to inform future strategy.

If you represent a community group, a mutual aid group or a community shop, you could play an important part in this research. It’s a fantastic chance for you to share your insights and tell us about where you see the positives and the challenges. Please contact victoria.grimberg@devoncommunities.org.uk to find out more and take part.



* source: Healthy and Happy Communities - DEVON’S JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY, 2020-25

COVID-19 OUTBREAK SELF ISOLATION MANAGEMENT GRANT FUND

An additional grant fund that DCT is pleased to be supporting is the Covid-19 Outbreak Self Isolation Management Grant Fund.

One of our Project Managers, Hannah Reynolds, is seconded to manage this fund, which is being distributed by Devon County Council to community organisations that support people who have to self-isolate due to Covid-19. This could include practical support to those self isolating e.g. shopping, hot meals, pharmacy pickup, dogwalking, support calls and activity kits.

The fund opened in October 2021 and closes at the end of March 2022. The panel has so far approved £223,600 of grants to 50 community groups and Parish/Town councils.

EXAMPLES OF SELF-ISOLATION SUPPORT PROJECTS:

Barnstaple Town Council - £6,200 to support its volunteer mutual aid scheme

Blackdown Support Group - £5,000 for volunteer co-ordination and support, linked with GP surgery

Dartmoor Community Kitchen Hub - £20,000 to cook and distribute meals to those self-isolating and their families across Dartmoor. Collaboration with Food Banks covering Dartmoor area



Find out more and apply here: www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/keeping-safe-well/covid-19-outbreak-management-grant-self-isolation-guidance/

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE GRANT FUNDS

The impact of the grant funds and all the projects and organisations they are supporting is far reaching. From bringing rough sleepers out from the cold to helping people learn how to chat to far-away family online, distributing meals to those in self-isolation and much more, DCT is helping to ensure that the funding will benefit those people most in need.

DCT OBJECTIVE

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



HELPING PEOPLE TO 'GET THROUGH WINTER'

During Q3 Devon Community Learning Academy welcomed 194 attendees to 15 training sessions, including Village Hall Governance and Funding Your Community Initiative, as well as continuing our ongoing programme of Benefits Training with Citizens Advice Devon.

Thanks to funding from the Covid-19 Outbreak Self Isolation Management Grant Fund (pg. 6), Devon Community Learning Academy partnered with Citizens Advice Devon to facilitate a series of 10 free online seminars entitled 'Getting Through the Winter'. These online sessions, aimed at people who support those on low

incomes through their work or volunteering, cover all the different financial options for people who are self-isolating as well as The Household Support Fund, Universal Credit and the help that's available to meet essential costs such as fuel bills. 52 tickets have so far been booked for these free sessions, which run until February 2022. You can register for a free place here: <https://tinyurl.com/3nju8m3m>

IMPACT

People are helped to maximise their incomes and cope financially during a time when pressures on household budgets are high.

CONSTRUCTING FUTURES DEVON: AN UPDATE

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

We're pleased to report that the amazing work from our young learners from South Devon College has paid off, as the two latest homes they have renovated in Torquay are going through the sales process. During Q3, nine new learners had the chance to practice their trades on-site. Work has now begun on our fourth property.



HM Government





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LISTENING TO COMMUNITY VOICES ON DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

DCT has been working with Living Options Devon and the Community Council of Somerset on the Community Risk Management Plan currently being consulted on by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

We are engaging with people who are: living in rented accommodation; aged 75+; from a BAME background; with limited mobility; with additional sensory needs; from areas of lower income; and living alone.

During Q3 we hosted three online events, with 23 individuals having an opportunity to share their views.

Some of the topics arising so far demonstrate the

value of listening to different voices within the community to inform the Risk Management Plan.

For example, we have heard how people for whom English may not be their first language can feel that language barriers and lower levels of knowledge around UK safety measures mean they don't know what standards should be met before accepting a property.

However, we also heard that people who are 75+ and living in supported accommodation felt reassured by the professionalism of their housing association which had cleared fire risks and maintained regular site visits from fire officers, along with fire alarm tests.

“Just wanted to say thank you for the great workshops the info I got [which I] will take back to our foodbank.”

IMPACT

The information from these workshops will inform the new Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan and future support activities. Beyond this, many of those attending the workshops are involved with services in the community such as foodbanks or language classes.

The knowledge and resources will be shared widely, leading to increased awareness of the Fire Service and especially its community prevention activities like home and business visits.

Read more about the Community Risk Management Plan here: www.dsfire.gov.uk/community-risk-plan



DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



DEVON COMMUNITY HOUSING HUB

During Q3 the Devon Community Housing Hub Partnership was delighted to make the new Devon Community Housing Hub website live! This new website was co-designed by partners including local authorities, social housing providers and Housing Officers. It is an exciting new community resource, packed with information and advice on rural and community-led housing that is designed to support local councils, community groups and any other interested parties to understand the routes to affordable local housing and progress schemes in their areas. Visit: www.devonhousinghub.org.uk



ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR LOCAL HOUSING

One of the services available through the new Hub is the delivery of local Housing Needs Surveys.

Two Housing Needs Surveys were carried out in Q3. One was carried out on behalf of West Devon District Council with the support of the local Parish Council. This was particularly well supported by the local community, with a very high response rate of 35%.

The second was in a Parish in East Devon and was carried out on behalf of a housing developer. Both Housing Needs Survey Reports produced by DCT have established future housing needs in the communities surveyed.



IMPACT

All the information, advice and services provided through the Devon Community Housing Hub increases the knowledge, skills and confidence within communities to progress much needed new rural housing, which can help to keep people in the communities they love and maintain vibrant and inclusive places to live.

DCT OBJECTIVE

COMMUNITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY STRONGER

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE: HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FLOURISH

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 Q3, DCT produced the 1st biannual report evaluating the second phase of the project (covering January-June 2021). You can read this report here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc82prtm>

We also visited Eat That Frog's Parkfield site in Paignton to interview a group of young Empowering Enterprise participants and learn their stories.

Eat That Frog is a social enterprise that helps people to identify and overcome their barriers to live a more fulfilled life. Parkfield is an outdoor space which has come into its own during lockdowns, as Eat That Frog has worked with the local council to take responsibility for the site and create an allotment there. It is an excellent, peaceful, melting pot of individuals who see the site as a safe space.

DCT met three young people who told us how working with Eat That Frog had given them structure, confidence in themselves and a chance to socialise. They were no longer as anxious and had better sleeping patterns. Two had secured work, and one had completed a gardening qualification.

By capturing these interviews we will be able to celebrate the work which is taking place and spread awareness of the Parkfield so more young people can benefit from it.



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. The Parkfield site is providing apprenticeships and training opportunities, as well as respite for carers via the NHS and a space for group activities and socialisation for isolated and anxious young people.



Visit EE's YouTube channel for inspirational stories from our young participants: <https://tinyurl.com/2z2cwsx7>

DCT was pleased to publish a new video case study for Empowering Enterprise during Q3.

We visited Hattie, in Tiverton, to hear her success story, of achieving employment with the support of her mentor, Bob, from Young Devon.

As well as this video serving to showcase Hattie's achievements, it has also been used by Young Devon to prompt conversations on its future delivery plans. Watch to Hattie here: <https://tinyurl.com/cczjfb2y>



Eat That Frog 🐸

"I've had really bad days when I can't sleep because I've been worrying so much. I've met loads of people who are going through the same thing as me so I know I'm not on my own. Gives me a lot of strength to carry on." Georgie

'She's [Sue] really amazing, brought me out of my shell. Given me a confidence I never thought I'd have again. Made me feel more comfortable in myself - more confident.' Georgie

"It really helps to get me out of the house. Before I started doing stuff here I would be in bed till 3 in the afternoon. Waking up really late going to bed early in the morning. It's really improved my life in general." Tommy

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 Q3, we conducted 10 visits to other project partners to help them reflect on best practice and approaches for working with people with high support needs.

An example of one of these young people is Chris, who lives in a rural area of Devon. He is disabled and finds it very hard to get around. Despite having good qualifications he feels his disabilities are affecting his job opportunities. Battling On, a Community Interest Company on the West Devon border that works with young people and veterans, helped him find a volunteering opportunity at a local kennels. He has subsequently applied for a job with a large pet store and feels optimistic that he will be able to get a job and eventually live independently.

DCT was also invited to create a case study of the interview preparation work being undertaken by local company, Bluescreen IT, with Experience Works participants. We met five young people who admitted that they 'don't like talking with strangers'.

At first, the young people were nervous about being filmed. However, with DCT joining in the activities and being 'at their level' they warmed to us and in the end, two felt confident enough to share their story on film and talk about the impact Bluescreen's activities have had. This video will become a great resource for the project as a whole, as well as Bluescreen's ongoing promotion and recruitment for Experience Works participants.

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

IMPACT

Young people's confidence increased through the interview and case study process.

By collaborating with the partners on how best to engage with the participants we have achieved a greater collective impact on the young people in supporting them to improve their opportunities.

Increased networking between stakeholders also creates a greater holistic impact across partners, services, employers and young people needing support.

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.



"I just wanted to thank you both for coming in to film the footage for the case study last week."

"Everyone had a great time, and you were both absolutely amazing at putting the students at ease." Mentor, Bluescreen IT

**EXPERIENCE
WORKS**



PETROC



NEW START DEVON: BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COACHING

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

During Q3, eight new people joined the programme, meaning 15 entrepreneurs are currently having 1-2-1 coaching and attending online group workshops.

One of our recent participants was Melissa Noble of The Academy of Wide Hearted Living, which offers wellbeing sessions designed to "make you feel more alright, more of the time!"

Melissa's challenge was that she needed support in learning how to plan strategically and realistically without diminishing the creativity that makes her business special.

Working with our business coach, Hannah Reynolds, Melissa built on her business canvas and created a business plan. Together they

looked at cash flow forecasts and pricing, as well as developing her customer profiles and journeys. Importantly, they also explored resilience and strategies for maintaining a healthy work/life balance.

After submitting her business plan to the Business and IP Centre, Melissa was successful in applying for a 'She Started It' award.

So far, she has carried out market research, delivered trial sessions, created a basic marketing plan and set up her first Eventbrite event.

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.

"Working with Hannah has taught me the significance of this planning process. I have really got to grips with why business planning matters so much...I am much better placed to move on towards success."

"I am incredibly grateful for the time and support given to me and really don't think that I would have got anywhere near where I am today without the encouragement and advice from Hannah and the team at DCT."
Melissa Noble



Stock photo

IMPACT

Entrepreneurs like Melissa overcome obstacles, build their skills, knowledge and confidence, and feel able to take their businesses forward, contributing to their local economies and communities.



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

TACKLING FUEL POVERTY THIS WINTER

Fuel costs are rising and pressures on household bills are very high for many this winter.

To help people in Devon through this worrying time, DCT is providing 1-2-1 energy advice, tailored to individual households to help them minimise their bills and keep their homes warm. Thanks to funding from Western Power Distribution we are able to visit people in their homes or give advice online or via phonecalls. We launched this project at the end of Q3 and are actively publicising the service throughout our networks to ensure we can help as many people as possible in the coming months.

Individual, confidential energy saving advice sessions with a DCT specialist adviser can be booked here: <https://tinyurl.com/38t7vxu7>

During Q3 we also continued to run our community energy saving presentations, as part of Big Energy Saving Network. We have so far carried out 11 presentations in rural locations, attended by 75 people. This year we have modified our presentation to include the causes, signs and impact of fuel poverty; what happens when an energy company goes out of business and the price cap, as well as lots of other advice on minimising fuel bills

To find out more, contact our Energy Champion Martin Rich: martin@devoncommunities.org.uk / 07984 001542.



Energy is more expensive than ever

How can you reduce your Energy usage?

Head to our website to book a

FREE one-to-one advice session today

Email: martin@devoncommunities.org.uk
Phone: 07984 001542
www.bit.ly/dctadvice

Logos: 60 years, centre for sustainable energy, WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION, QR code

“Just wanted to say thank you very much for coming to Sampford Courtenay Village hall to give your talk and advise on energy efficiency. We had a total of 15 attended your talk and another 5 who attended for individual advice. The feedback was very good.”

IMPACT

People are supported to minimise costs and keep their homes warm at what is a hugely challenging time with household energy bills predicted to rise significantly in the spring.

Feedback from our workshops has shown that we have been helpful in clearing up confusion surrounding issues such as the energy price cap and how to access the Priority Service Register.

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



EXPLORING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING ONLINE HEALTH SERVICES

While the use of digital devices is increasing across all population groups, adoption of digitally enabled health care is not growing at the same rate.

To help understand and address these challenges, DCT is participating in NHSX’s Digital Inclusion Pioneers Programme, which has received funding to support discovery work with people living in our most rural communities - with particular focus on those living in the most deprived areas and those most geographically distant from our acute hospitals.

A first workshop was held in December: “Digital Inclusion - Exploring barriers to rural

communities accessing digital health services”, with 13 participants from health providers and community organisations across Devon. We discussed barriers to participation and have since been using the intelligence we gathered to inform the future of the research programme. Our key focus will be older people in rural areas who are digitally excluded, unwilling to try online consultations, or who have tried online consultations with clinicians and who can share their experiences (positive and negative).

Contact laura.dixon@devoncommunities.org.uk



“We saw first-hand the benefit to people, they told us about the difference becoming digitally connected had made to their lives.”

“People are surprised about the value of digital - if we can support them into this space, the learning and confidence they can gain is significant.”

“The patient still needs to be properly understood.”

IMPACT

This research will help identify what needs to be done to support more people to successfully access online health services, ensuring that future support can be channelled in the most effective way.



chair@devonmaternityvoices.org.uk

DEVON MVP: USER-FOCUSED MATERNITY CARE

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

During Q3, Devon MVP produced a training video for maternity care staff in Devon on the newly launched Personalisation Journal. The Personalisation Journal has been co-produced between Devon MVP, service users, Better Birth Midwives and the Local Maternity and Neonatal System. The journal helps women and birthing people to ensure their antenatal appointments are led by them and how they are feeling.

Feedback from maternity services staff indicated that the training video was more

impactful than previous training.

The MVP team also carried out '15 Steps' exercises at three of the four Devon Trusts, which involves reviewing the environment of the maternity units in North Devon, Torbay and Plymouth from a service user perspective. Devon MVP will be acting on the feedback to improve the environment for women and birthing people, starting with volunteer groups working on the information displays at each trust.

The 15 Steps reports can be found here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-maternity-voices-partnership/15-steps

IMPACT

The Personalisation Journals and the 15 Steps exercises places the service users at the heart of maternity care in Devon, taking their views, experiences and feelings into account to promote the best care possible.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP WITH SOVEREIGN HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Through our partnership with Sovereign Housing Association, we have continued collaborating on delivery of community development services in areas across Devon with Sovereign Housing Association residents.

Beneficiaries have included community organisations, young people, families and people in later life.



DCT OBJECTIVE COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE RESOURCEFUL AND RESILIENT



Contact laura.dixon@devoncommunities.org.uk for support with your Community Emergency Plan or information about the available funding.

During Q3, three Communities were supported to develop new Emergency Plans. These plans will be shared with the emergency services and will enable a joined up response in an emergency.



DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

The Devon Community Resilience Forum (DCRF) continues to support local communities to create community emergency plans and improve their overall resilience; alongside providing a responsive and proactive support service, and a grant programme.

During Q3, this grant programme has provided two Parish Councils with money for important equipment. Peters Marland Parish Council has been able to purchase a powerful torch and high-vis clothing, and Ugborough Parish Council received funding for a twin pack of two-way radios.

IMPACT

Having the right equipment could help keep wardens and the public safe in an emergency, such as flooding.

FLOOD AND COASTAL RESILIENCE INNOVATION PROGRAMME (FCRIP)



DCT is one of the key partners in this new project, which is led by Devon County Council and is made up of 25 individual projects across the county, reporting to the Environment Agency and DEFRA.

The project focusses on rapidly responding catchments in a predominantly rural areas, whilst also making links between rural spaces and urban risks. It aims to identify a range of replicable low-cost resilience actions that can be delivered and funded by local authorities or/and local communities of different sizes/ settings where traditional flood defences are shown not to be appropriate.

So far, three stakeholder engagement workshops have taken place, with up to 24 attendees at each one. The engagement plan is being developed by the Partnership and community facing activity to identify the measures that are needed is set to begin in spring 2022.

IMPACT

Rural communities will be better protected from the effects of flooding.

Contact laura.dixon@devoncommunities.org.uk for more information.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: TRAINING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to support hundreds of village halls in the county with guidance and advice to help them through the most recent stages of the pandemic and plan for the future.

In Q3, our Village Halls Adviser received 115 requests for support on a variety of topics including governance, funding, Covid compliance and hall management.

As well as managing the incoming enquiries, DCT has been organising training and networking opportunities for trustees and committees:

- 40 halls attended an online workshop on fire safety, presented by Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue
- 32 people joined a Zoom open forum for village hall trustees
- Seven village hall trustees attended an in-person training session on management and governance of village halls

As a result of the latter training session we are now helping Halbeton Parish Hall with

rationalising its governance and supporting the Trustees to make positive changes to the management processes.

We were also pleased to be able to visit several village halls in person, including advising 20 attendees at a meeting of the North Devon & Torridge village halls association and making four site visits to give advice on future village hall development projects.

IMPACT

Training and networking opportunities mean that Trustees and committees better understand both their roles and responsibilities, become more engaged in the management of their hall, and feel confident in using the services of DCT to develop their governance in the future, for the benefit of their communities.



Contact martin.rich@devoncommunities.org.uk

DEVON LAND USE FRAMEWORK

DCT is pleased to be 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 that can then be adopted by practitioners in the public, private and third sectors. Using our Asset Based Community Development approach, we have begun the process of identifying key stakeholders to engage with on this influential framework, and look forward to progressing this exciting new project over the coming months.



DCT OBJECTIVE

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

Contact harry.bonnell@devoncommunities.org.uk

COUNCILLORS' CLIMATE SUPPORT NETWORK

DCT recently hosted a third successful online meeting of our support network for local councils in Devon, which aims to address the climate change emergency.

70 people attended from communities of all sizes. Attendees heard from South West based electric vehicle consultancy ChargeWorks, and also from representatives from four communities who presented case studies on their community engagement work around climate change.

A key aim of these events is for councils at different stages to learn from one another, and we had previously identified that a main

area in which people were seeking support was community engagement. Therefore, the four case studies all focused on inspiring community engagement activities.

They included an amazing event in Bigbury where 500 people gathered to send a message to COP26 (pictured); an 'eat-local, plastic-free' adaption of the regular summer fayre in Bondleigh; an expert speaker event in Buckland Brewer; and an overview of the excellent ongoing work of Uffculme which has been on a great journey over the past eight years involving the community in a range of projects from litter picks, to community fairs.

"Great range of approaches, all very inspirational. I definitely think we can all learn from each other."

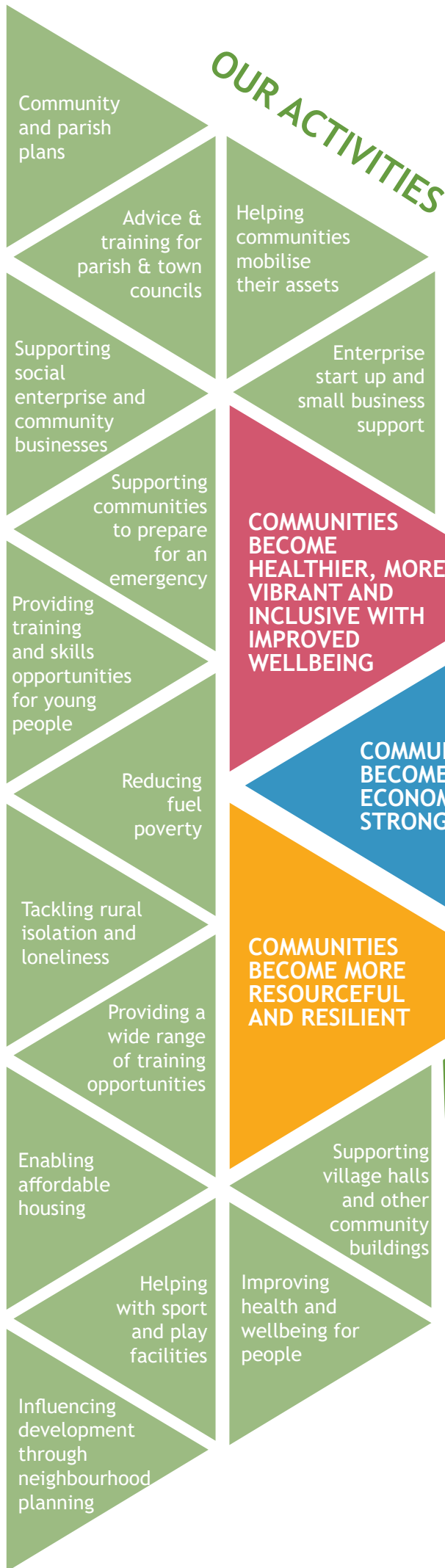
"These presentations have been really helpful and inspiring. I will feed back to my parish council and see if we can get an event organised."

IMPACT

One of the case study speakers shared that he had organised his event directly due to attending the first DCT network event, and feedback on the day showed that the speakers have inspired councillors to take these messages back to their communities and develop their own actions. The event has increased the knowledge amongst Devon-wide community leaders, on both community engagement and electric vehicles (via the speakers), and also on many wider links and resources around climate change.



Videos of our speakers from all three network events can be found on the Devon Communities Together YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8nfrat>



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.