



Devon Communities Together

helping communities help themselves



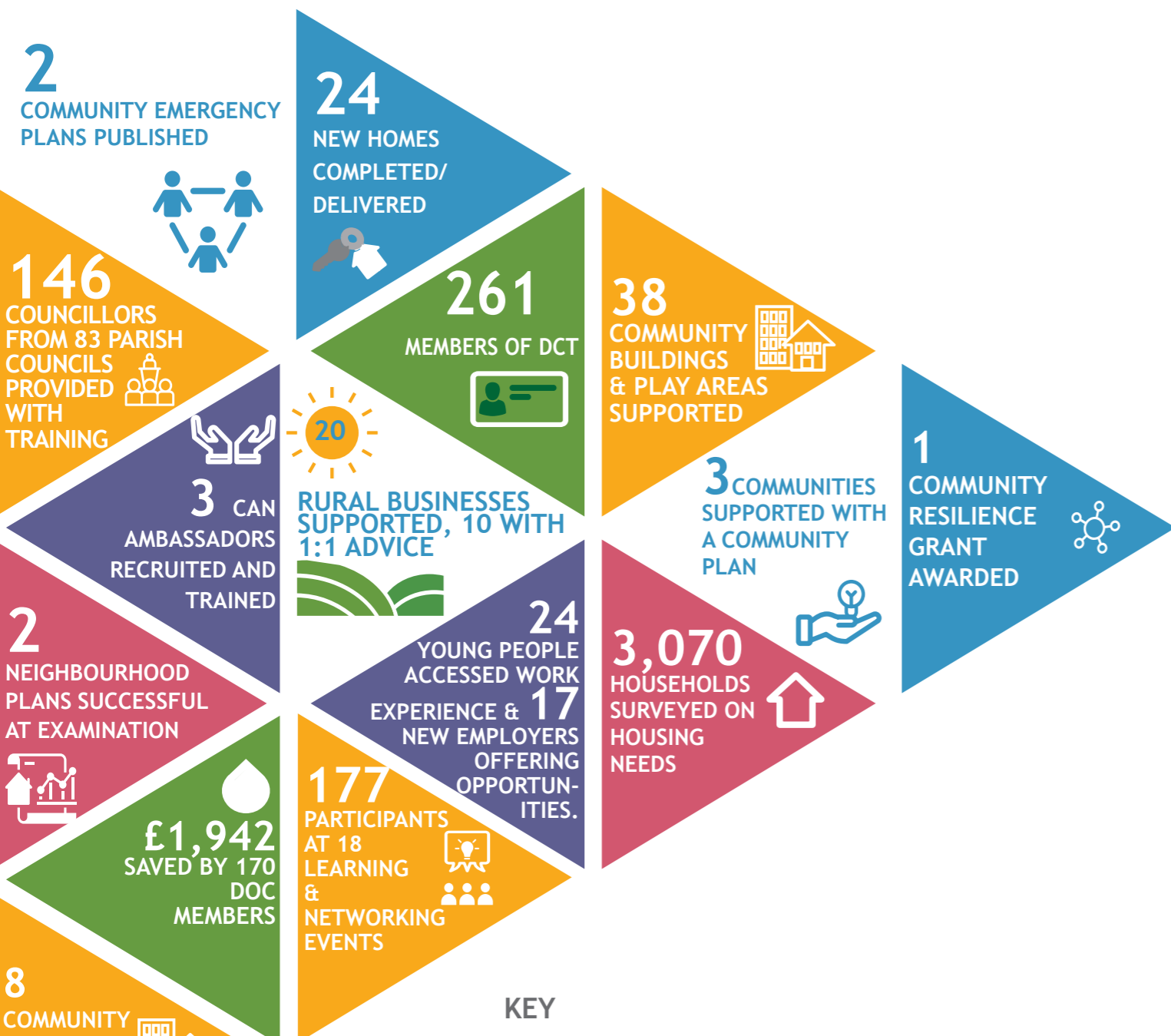
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

Q4 REPORT 2018/19



May 2019

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



KEY

DEVON COMMUNITIES OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK:

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

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



Citizens Advice Devon trainer Vincent Willson upskills local people about the new benefits system.

DEVON COMMUNITY LEARNING ACADEMY

We facilitated 78 learning/networking events this year, with a total of 1,166 participants, including 18 in Q4 2018/19 with 177 participants. We collaborated on delivery with 8 external training providers in Q4.

During Q4 DCT ran a survey of the Devon Community Learning Academy customers to monitor our customer experience and capture feedback. 104 individuals completed the survey. Training was overwhelmingly rated good to excellent, the level of detail on the webpages was predominantly rated as 'just right' and the booking process as 'easy'. Feedback was gathered on future training courses of interest and potential incentives. As a result of this review we are planning pricing incentives in conjunction with our partners.

IMPACT

Local people are upskilled and inspired to create positive change in their lives and their communities. Some of the feedback from Q4 includes:

"It was a thoroughly interesting, educational and enjoyable day."

"The best part was interaction between small groups."

"Very good - food for thought and action."

"Brilliant, very helpful. Came away with a much better understanding."

"Absolutely invaluable."

"An excellent course. Lots of information that I will be able to use in my work."

EXMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: AN UPDATE

In our Q2 Impact Report we detailed how we'd supported the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to produce the formal Neighbourhood Plan consultation statement. Following this, on 21st March a referendum was held at which 87.62% of residents who voted were in favour of adopting the plan. The plan has since been 'made' and forms part of the Development Plan for East Devon.

IMPACT

Exmouth now has a Neighbourhood Plan, developed and voted for by its community, which addresses a range of local issues in the town.

"Community involvement was always going to be key to a successful outcome at referendum ... Your input ensured that the Plan and associated publicity captured the interests of the community and it is greatly appreciated by Exmouth Town Council."

Cllr. Jeff Trail, Exmouth Town Mayor.



**DCT
OBJECTIVE**
COMMUNITIES BECOME
ECONOMICALLY
STRONGER



The School of Experiential Learning: a Body-Mind Centering Workshop

ENTERPRISE COACHING: NEW START DEVON

In Q4 we launched our new enterprise coaching programme, New Start Devon, which provides free one-to-one business support for start-ups and entrepreneurs, in particular those who are under-represented in business and those who have found it difficult to access support in the past. We are working with YTKO on this European Regional Development Fund programme.

One of the first enterprises we've worked with is The School of Experiential Learning, which is facing a number of challenges relating to its premises being too small and short-term, and the School not having a business plan in order to structure its planned growth. Its vision is to grow from a 12-person capacity school to a larger enterprise - either a charity or Community Interest Company - and to secure a long-term, flexible venue that will facilitate additional income streams through shared office spaces. DCT's dedicated project manager, Matthew Porter, is currently working with the owner, Rosalind, on a 12-hour on-to-one coaching programme that will support her to work through the issues, develop a more planned approach to her enterprise and create a business plan.

IMPACT

Rosalind is receiving support to help grow her enterprise, which will not only provide valuable learning opportunities to its clients but will also contribute more widely to the local economy with the potential for job creation and new office spaces for complementary organisations.

Do you know of a person or business that could benefit from enterprise coaching? please contact: matthew.porter@devoncommunities.org.uk / 01392 248919.

"Thank you ... for a very useful meeting and generally for a very useful process. Thank you, I am getting such a lot out of it."
Rosalind, Owner, The School of Experiential Learning

SYRIAN REFUGEE SUPPORTED VOLUNTARY PLACEMENTS

We recently concluded the pilot phase of our Devon County Council funded work in supporting Syrian refugees in Devon to access voluntary work placements in order to improve their English skills, their employability and their interaction with their communities. Over the course of the pilot we facilitated placements for four settled refugees, two of which are ongoing at the time of writing. We have since reviewed the pilot and produced a report.

IMPACT

Of the two ongoing placements, both individuals recorded some improvement in areas such as feeling valued and part of a team, and knowledge of working practices in the UK. The report also highlighted several areas in which the project could be improved to further support refugees, grow its scope and achieve more significant outcomes for the individuals involved. It is hoped these learnings will be taken forward to future stages of the project.



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



St John the Baptist Church, Meshaw, North Devon

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, MESHAW

There is no community meeting space in the village of Meshaw, North Devon, other than the church. The Chairman of the parish meeting had contacted DCT to explore how the church may be used differently. We worked with the Parochial Church Council, Diocese and community representatives to initiate a discussion and develop a strategy around wider community use.

To support the community in their initiative, DCT provided an outline of the re-ordering that might be required to facilitate wider community use. We provided a framework for the discussions and helped the interested parties explore each other's perspectives and reach agreement on the scope of the project. We also recommended a feasibility study and supported the construction of a successful application to the National Lottery Awards for All fund to cover the cost of the study. So far...

- A project group of eight people has been formed
- A grant of £10k for a feasibility study has been received from National Lottery Awards for All
- A consultant architect has been interviewed
- A dilapidations review has been undertaken by the steering group
- The group have been on visits to other churches to gather ideas

IMPACT

The community has been brought together to undertake a major project that will have a significant impact on community cohesion.

COMMUNITY UNITY

In Q4 DCT produced a final report on the Community Unity pilot project, which ran from May 2017 - November 2019 and was funded by Devon & Cornwall Police. Community Unity was designed to support the Citizens in Policing Programme and encourage voluntary and community groups to work together and build capacity. Highlights from the report include:

- *100% participants at Connector Events felt better connected.
- *14 training workshops with 140 attendees supported volunteers to acquire skills and gain confidence in addressing community issues.
- *Know Your Neighbour campaign increased awareness of local loneliness issues.



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



Affordable homes for rent in Cheriton Bishop

CHERITON BISHOP COMMUNITY LAND TRUST: AN UPDATE

During Q4, eight new affordable homes for rent in Cheriton Bishop were let to people with a local connection, either living in the village or with a family connection. These homes are the result of hard work from the Cheriton Bishop Community Land Trust (CLT) which has been supported by DCT since 2012 when the first Housing Needs Survey was carried out. Since then we have carried out further housing needs surveys, explored different options with the community, supported the CLT through the predevelopment process, supported community consultations and helped the CLT identify local people in housing need and explain the application process. This has culminated in eight high quality new homes being successfully completed and let.

IMPACT

The economic benefit of eight new homes is considerable, with more people able to comfortably live in the village. The community has become more inclusive as people on low incomes will be able to remain in the village which has very high house prices, out of the range of most local people. The community has increased capability and skills in addressing affordable housing issues and the success of the CLT is a wonderful example of what communities can achieve with the right support.



"We are absolutely delighted that the Cheriton Bishop CLT has helped to enable these 8 homes for local people which will benefit the community into the future." Gill Westcott, Chair of Cheriton Bishop CLT

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Connecting Actively to Nature partners

CONNECTING ACTIVELY TO NATURE

During Q4 DCT delivered training to 17 of the project local delivery partners on the Connecting Actively to Nature project. The training covered use of the project CRM system for data capture, and methods to capture the data amongst participants within activity projects. Each delivery partner that received the training will deliver between one and ten active in nature projects.

IMPACT

The partners' full understanding of the importance and methods for data capture means that the project can measure and evaluate the change that the activities produce. This will support the aim of getting more older people active to improve their physical and mental wellbeing and allow benchmarking and learning to take place.

DEVELOPING A NEW COMMUNITY ASSET IN BURRINGTON

Devon County Council wished to dispose of a field that had the potential to be of use to the community. DCT gave advice on registering a community asset and how a purchase might be negotiated and funded, including advice on public works loan funding. Our Rural Housing Enabler also gave advice on setting up a Community Land Trust.

The parish council is now moving ahead with purchase negotiations.

IMPACT

Community assets will be increased with contributions to social housing, recreation and wellbeing, and public safety.

POLICY WORK - Chief Executive Elaine Cook is a member of the ACRE policy team which develops policy positions and responses to national consultations and evidence to APPGs and Select Committees on rural issues. Recently she has been part of the response on the NHS 10 Year Plan which has led to a request to work with officials from the Department of Health on a rural strategy. In Devon Elaine has been part of the RSA Commission working group developing a report and recommendations on farmers' health, education around farming, food, diet and good health and food procurement.



