



East Devon VCSE Infrastructure Support Service

Year 1 Report April 2023 to March 2024
June 2024



This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



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Executive summary

East Devon VCSE Infrastructure Support service started in April 2023, it is funded by East Devon District Council (EDDC) via the UKSPF-funded (with support from DEFRA). The project supports the VCSE sector in East Devon. During the first year the project has supported the sector in a range of ways including providing training, setting up networks, signposting and provided guidance around for example funding and how to set up a new CIC. The activities we have delivered in Year 1 included four listening events, 1-2-1 support via email or face to face meetings, a training package which was a combination of being online and face to face. The team have also developed networks and schemes, contributed to developed networks to develop relationships, and developed ways of organisations to be able to promote their offer. Key learnings from Year 1 are; there are dedicated and passionate individuals within the VCSE sector in East Devon, the challenge for many VCSE organisations is to find funding to be able to continue doing the work they do, many also struggle to recruit and retain volunteers and the individuals who volunteer enjoy volunteering. Below is a summary of the key achievements from year 1 of the programme.

Key Achievements


 **135** VCSE organisations engaged

 **29** VCSE organisations helped to apply for funding

 **122** VCSE organisations provided with guidance and training

 **4** VCSE organisations helped to get set up

 **116** people attending training sessions

 **29** VCSE organisations supported to become more sustainable

Introduction

East Devon VCSE Infrastructure Support

Devon Communities Together (DCT), an independent charity who support and enable local communities across Devon to address inequalities and insecurities, are managing a UKSPF-funded (with support from DEFRA) 3-year contract let by East Devon District Council (EDDC). The project is designed to work across the district, in close collaboration with grass roots community groups and organisations to run a series of activities to increase capacity and sustainability for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector in East Devon.

The programme is designed to conduct a gap analysis to review VCSE infrastructure support needs; establish a responsive, demand-led service to meet current needs identified through provision of local peer networking & training opportunities; provide training; provision of a specialist advice and information service (covering funding, governance, strategic planning etc). The programme connects with a broad range of place-based and strategic networks to explore new ways of working, influencing district-wide policy and service development. Our overarching aim for the programme is to build capacity and to contribute to the strength and sustainability of the VCSE sector in East Devon.



Devon Communities Together

Devon Communities Together is the Rural Community Council of Devon an independent charity. We work with communities across Devon to help them tackle the challenges they are facing. Our work has included; working with communities to address the lack of affordable housing for local people, designing initiatives to help

people to access important services such as healthcare, supporting people with digital connectivity and skills, helping people to develop their own small businesses, giving advice to people in fuel poverty, supporting Village Halls committees to develop their spaces, helping people to address the climate emergency and serious weather conditions at a local level.



East Devon VCSE sector profiling

As part of the initial scoping and listening work undertaken by the team, a greater understanding of the district has meant that the team have been able to respond and build on assets in the sector. This has steered the project's Theory of Change, capacity building work and priorities throughout the year,

With a population of just over 148,000 people, data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA¹)¹ indicates that the district is affluent, receiving a IMD Decile score of 7 for deprivation (from a range of 0 being the most deprived – 10 least deprived). However, from reviewing the Public Health dashboards, we are aware there are pockets with increased risks such as fuel poverty, food poverty and income deprivation². The data mainly indicates these being prevalent in more urban areas such as parts of Exmouth, Honiton and Axminster.

Rural inequality is not always identified within localised data sources, but has been through research by Action with Communities in Rural England and DEFRA. Rural households are being disproportionately impacted by financial strain such as the cost-of-living crisis and reduced services and infrastructure. This can increase household costs and ease of access to services and support³. It impacts their sustainability and capacity to thrive as a community, and therefore there is a growing need of support from the local VCSE sector to support them.

Whilst gaining understanding of the local population, the team have also worked on profiling the VCSE sector in East Devon, using developed tools⁴ as well as holding

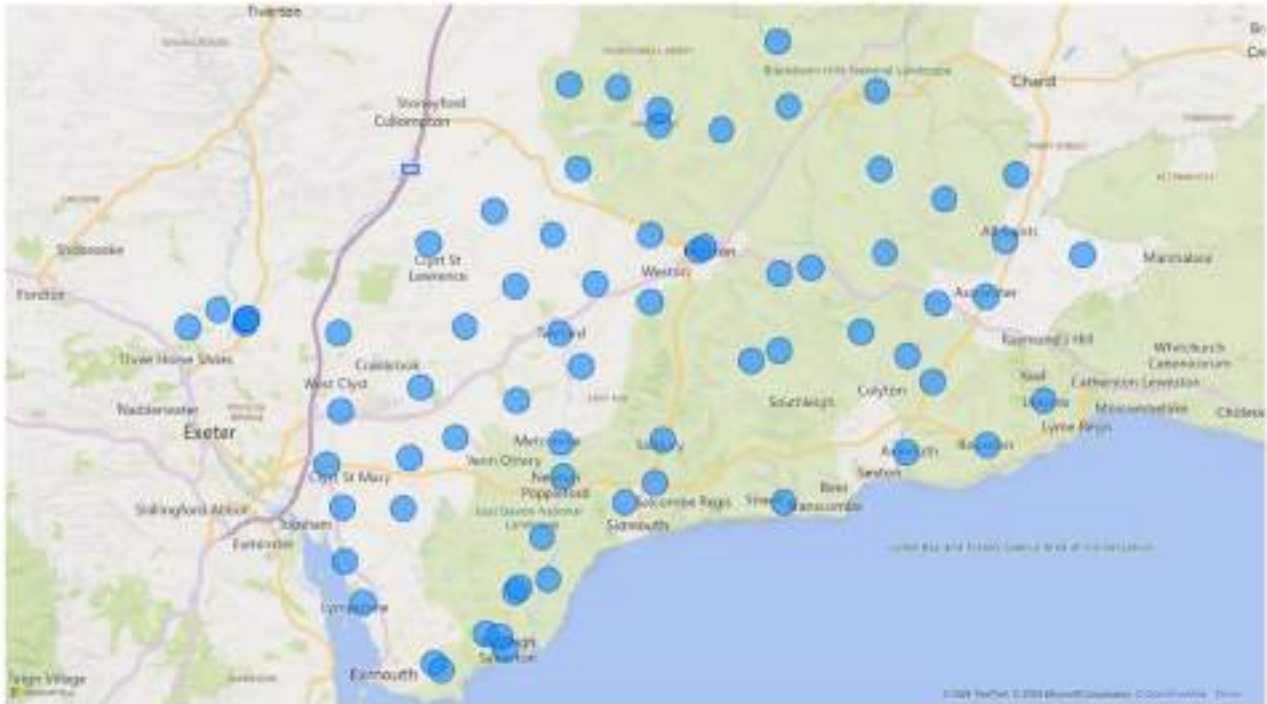
¹ [JSNA headline tool - Devon Health and Wellbeing](#)

² <https://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/public-health-dashboards/cost-of-living/>

³ <https://acre.org.uk/rural-households-disproportionately-impacted-by-the-cost-of-living-crisis/>

⁴ <https://devoncf.com/our-work/information-portal/>

listening events across the district and developing relationships with grass roots groups and organisations. Alongside this, DCT have developed an extensive audit of Village Halls across Devon, which further understands the community assets across East Devon via their village halls and community buildings, see map below and the link to the map [here](#).



"I liked hearing shared experiences on the topic. I loved the networking opportunities."

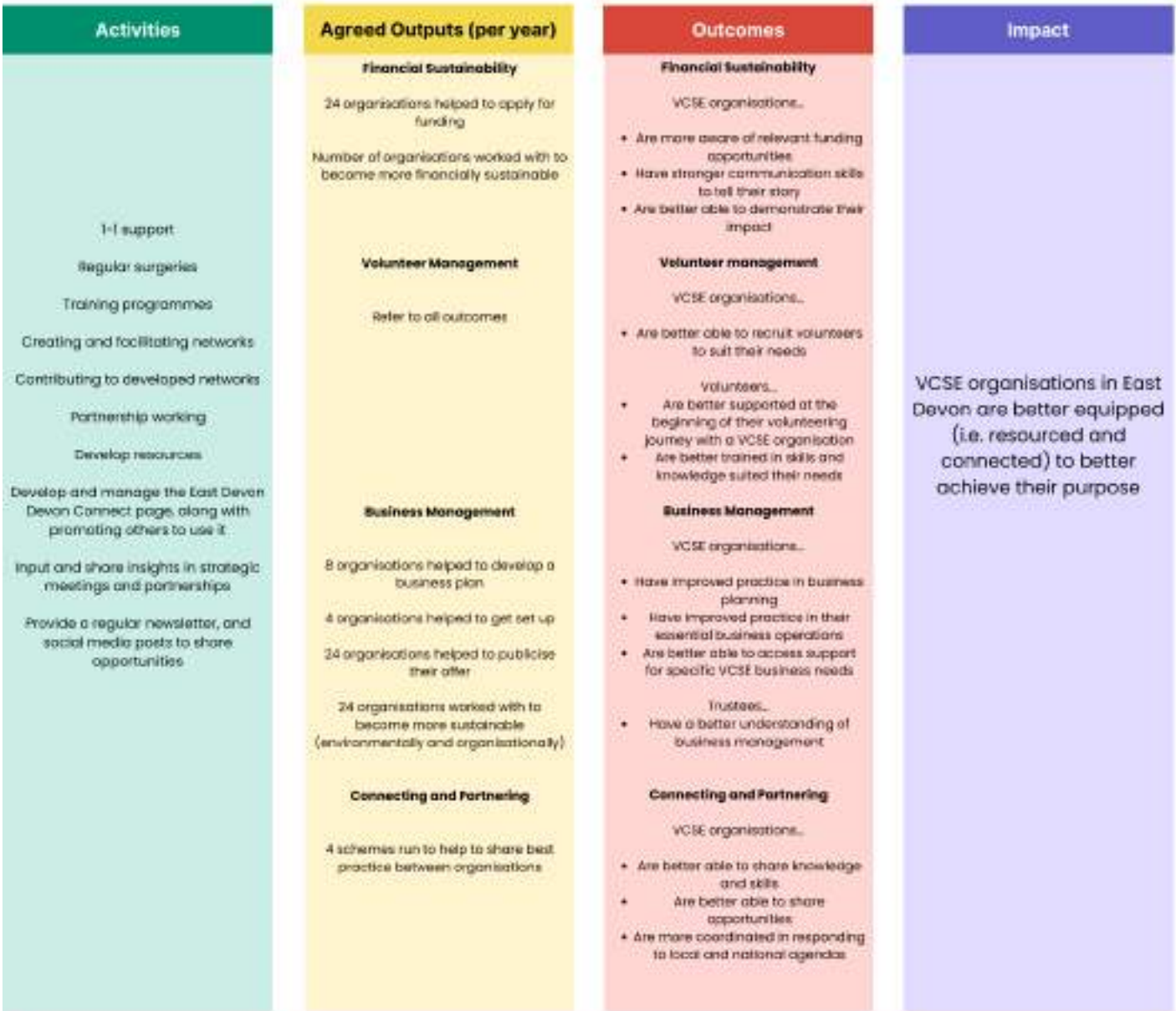
"[The training] helped improve the way we do things and hopefully become more successful in return."

Methodology – Theory of Change

At the start of the project, and in order to steer the project outcomes and priorities, the team took a co-design approach by holding some co-design listening events in the summer of 2023. During the events, 31 local VCSE representatives joined us to share the strengths of local communities and the VCSE sector, and areas of need. This acted as springboard for us to begin fulfilling the needs identified by VCSE organisations. Examples of identified priorities were recorded, and the following Theory of Change was developed to shape the project priorities going forward.

A 'Theory of Change' (ToC) explains how activities are understood to produce a series of results that contribute to achieving the intended impacts. The ToC included below is both a monitoring and tracking device, as well as an impact demonstration tool.

Theory of Change



Evaluation methods: Testimonials and quotes, surveys, Most Significant Change stories, case studies, observations, photos and videos.

However, we are also aware that there are other VCSE organisations and assets out there, as the sector is constantly changing, and new groups forming and developing. The team will continue to develop relationships and build networks across the district in order to continue responding to local priorities that are identified.

Case Study: East Devon Community Shop Network

Case Study: East Devon Community Shop Network

The community shops around East Devon met in Payhembury Parish Hall on the 25th of October. The representatives networked with each other and as a group they discussed:

- How to recruit and retain volunteers
- Gift items such as cards, calendars, local art and local maps or jigsaw of the area
- Household Items such as fresh flowers soap and eco-refills
- How they would like future meetings to look like

Each shop was sharing how they go about running their community shop, sharing best practice and challenges. Afterwards they visited the local 'host' shop. Many got new ideas which they will incorporate.



"The meetings were useful as we were all operating in isolation dealing with issues not knowing what we were doing was right or the whether issues we faced were faced by others and these meetings provided an outlet for support information and problem solving."

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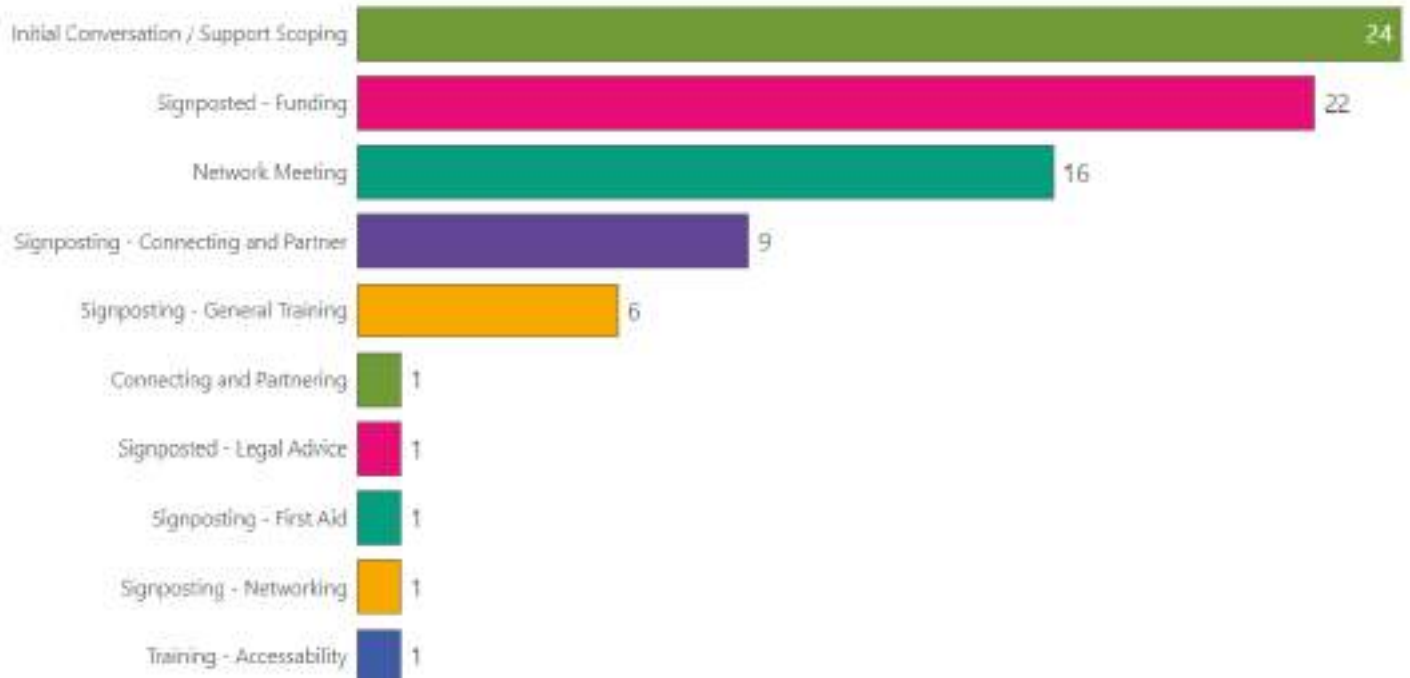
Delivery

Throughout the year we have focused on developing relationships and networks between VCSE organisations throughout the district, through attending network meetings, engaging with people in the community, and attending events to make connections with others and learn about what they need on a 1-1 basis. We have also developed connecting methods such as managing the Devon Connect East Devon page, sharing information on social media, as well as being present in the community. This has meant that we can develop strong relationships with others and respond to their queries and what they wish to strengthen.



Now that we have been engaging, developing and supporting the VCSE sector, we understand and are able to evidence how we are meeting the outcomes determined in the Theory of Change. See charts below with an overview of 1-1 support provided and network meetings attended in Year 1. Further information about outcomes and impact can be found below.

1-2-1 Support and Network Meetings



Using our dedicated email inbox, eastdevonvcse@devoncommunities.org.uk, and through conversations in the community, we have responded to 74 enquiries from 39 organisations. Of these, 19 had initial sessions to explore our service, and 31 received 1-2-1 support. Our support has included: promoting services; widening networks; signposting to training and funding; and advice on business plans. Taking learnings from conversations and relationships built, we have facilitated 40 training sessions and events based on what communities have told us they would like to know more about. Topics have included; financial sustainability; volunteer management; business management, connecting and partnering and measuring impact.



Case study - InShot Training

The co-founders of Word Forest international reforestation charity based in Tipton St John, attended a free training session on the use of InShot video editing app.

"I really cannot thank you enough for the session and for bringing this amazing little bit of tech to our attention. The training was just 10 days ago and we have already used it to make 7 short (1 minute) promotional videos, which I would love you to see so you can really see the impact of your training.

We have received several short bits of video from our beneficiaries in Kenya recently, as we have many times before. Now, we can take those pieces of video, which previously we wouldn't have had the time to edit and work on, and within minutes, we can turn them into something we are proud to add to our video channel and use on our website.

A heartfelt asante sana (thank you in Kiswahili)"

These can be found near the top of this page:
<https://www.wordforest.org/week/>



www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/east-devon-vcse-support-service



This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Putting these training events into categories, the graph to the right shows how many of each type of training/event we have facilitated. These training sessions/events were an effective way of generating interest from new organisations and groups and saw over 75 organisations attending. The sessions proved a useful medium for us to better understand the needs of the sector and provided learning to inform the future of the project. Many organisations that had received 1-2-1 support also attended our training sessions, events, and key meetings. Taking this into account, we have engaged a total of 135 organisations this year.

Facilitated Events & Training



Training outcomes have included more people being upskilled within a range of topics including:

- Canva: Create a Poster - East Devon Bitesize Sessions
- InShot: Make your own video - East Devon Bitesize Sessions
- East Devon Deep Dive - Measuring Impact and Success
- Marketing -'Sell the sizzle not the sausage'- East Devon Bitesize Session
- Deep Dive 'Writing Effective Funding Applications - Capital and Revenue'
- East Devon Bitesize Sessions - Legal Structures for VCSE organisations
- East Devon Deep Dive - Writing Effective Funding Applications
- Deep Dive 'Writing Strategy and Business Plans'
- Deep Dive - 'Governance, Policies and Procedures- essential policies'

"Well paced [training], Good language (i.e. not jargon) and explained things well. I liked that it was a small group too so that the presenter had time to get to know us and answer questions specifically to us individually."

"Hopefully, having a strong business plan will increase our chances of gaining funding."

"Key elements to writing a simple business case were emphasised, such as getting community buy-in."

The team have been working in partnership with existing work happening across the district and were represented at network events across East Devon this quarter. Examples of meetings we regularly attend include the East Devon VCSE Network, Seaton VCSE Meeting, Web Network Meeting and Eastern LCP VCSE Partnership Meeting. These connections with others ensure that we understand and input into strategic conversations and local district priorities that are emerging, alongside how grass roots community groups can be involved, and sharing insights that we are hearing from organisations we have listened to on the ground.



Case Study: Settle UK – setting up a CIC

SETTLE UK

East Devon VCSE Support Service project has enabled Olimpia to set up her own East Devon based CIC from scratch and be better resourced and equipped to achieve her purpose of supporting non-English speaking migrants to integrate into their local community, thus supporting the wider diversity and asset of East Devon. Olimpia contacted East Devon VCSE Support Services in August 2023 as she was looking for support in setting up a new charitable organisation. She had lived in East Devon for 10 years after relocating from Poland.



The DCT support team initially met with Olimpia in September 2023 for an informal to find out more about her project, and what stage she was at in the development of her organisation. The team met again with Olimpia in October 2023 to provide one-to-one support – this time we explored the different types of legal organisation structures e.g. charity, CIC, CIO, cooperative etc. She attended the East Devon VCSE training programme, including sessions on legal structures of organisations, governance, policies and procedures, business plan writing, and how to secure funding.

By working alongside Olimpia and providing a combination of bespoke one-to-one support, as well as offering focused learning and skill building opportunities via our training programme, DCT has facilitated Olimpia to take her dream and turn it into a reality.

Overall, the DCT team supported Olimpia in areas such as financial sustainability, business management, and connecting and partnering - working directly towards achieving the Theory of Change outcomes, as part of the East Devon VCSE Support Service.

Olimpia said ***“Thank you so much. I am so proud. It is a dream come true!”***



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Case Study: Axminster Community Shed



Axminster Community Shed

DCT began working with Axminster Community Shed in February 2024 after meeting at the Waffle House (Axminster) Volunteer event. A member of the East Devon VCSE Support Service team listened to Colin (joint Chairperson) and heard the obstacles they were facing in trying to make the Community Shed more sustainable and resilient.

Subsequently, a follow-up visit was set up to gain a better understanding of the project and how the project could support them to achieve their goals and objectives. This, in part has been achieved by promoting and inviting, the Community Shed to attend various DCT training sessions including:

- Meet the Funder Event
- Measuring Your Impact
- Volunteer Management, Deep Dive Volunteer Management - workload, supervision & more

East Devon VCSE Support Service has supported the Community Shed by regularly informing them about funding opportunities and signposted to agencies which could assist them to achieve their goals and objectives. The Community Shed will be moving to new premises in the very near future and this will enable the them to assist the wider community of Axminster.

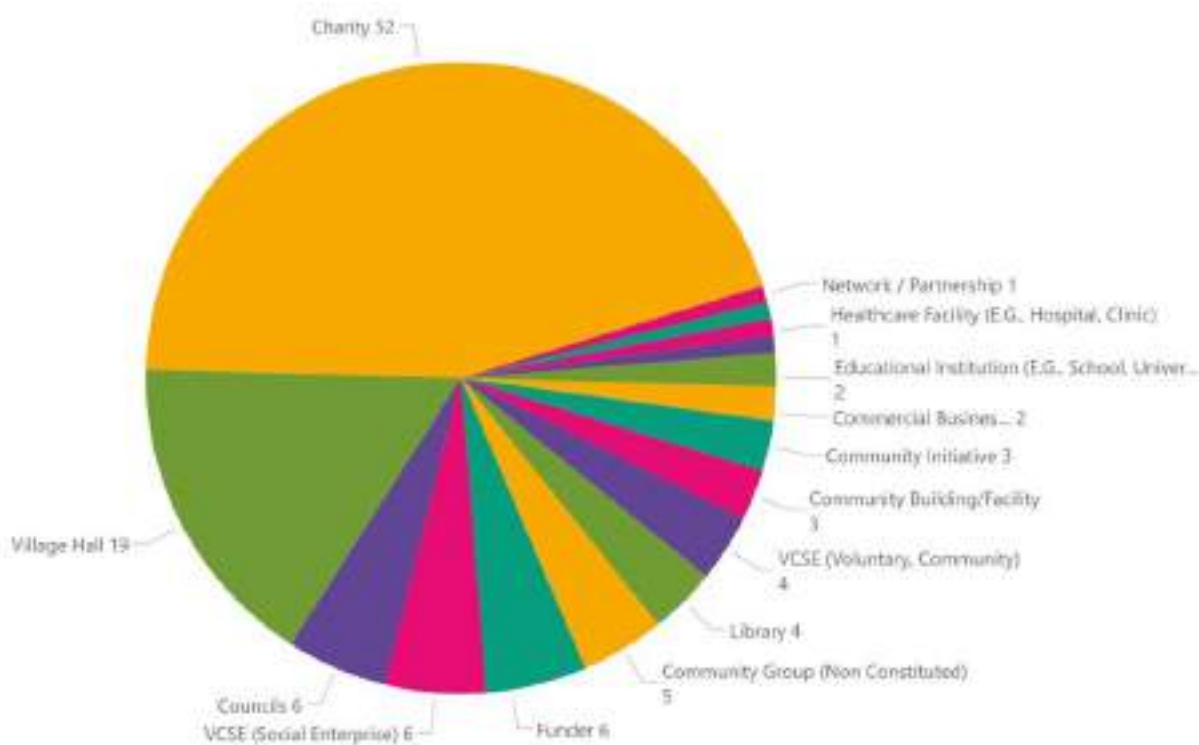


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Evaluation of Impact of Programme activities to date

The project has two sets of targets: one from East Devon District Council (EDDC) and one from the Shared Prosperity Fund UK (full set of targets please see appendix B). The Theory of Change highlighted four areas which we have been focusing on; Financial Sustainability, Volunteer Management, Business Management and Connecting and Partnering, which underneath we have highlighted how we met these outcomes. The chart below shows the large variety of engagements the team have had with organisations over the last year.



The pie chart above gives an overview of the types of organisations we supported through 1-1 support and scoping conversations.

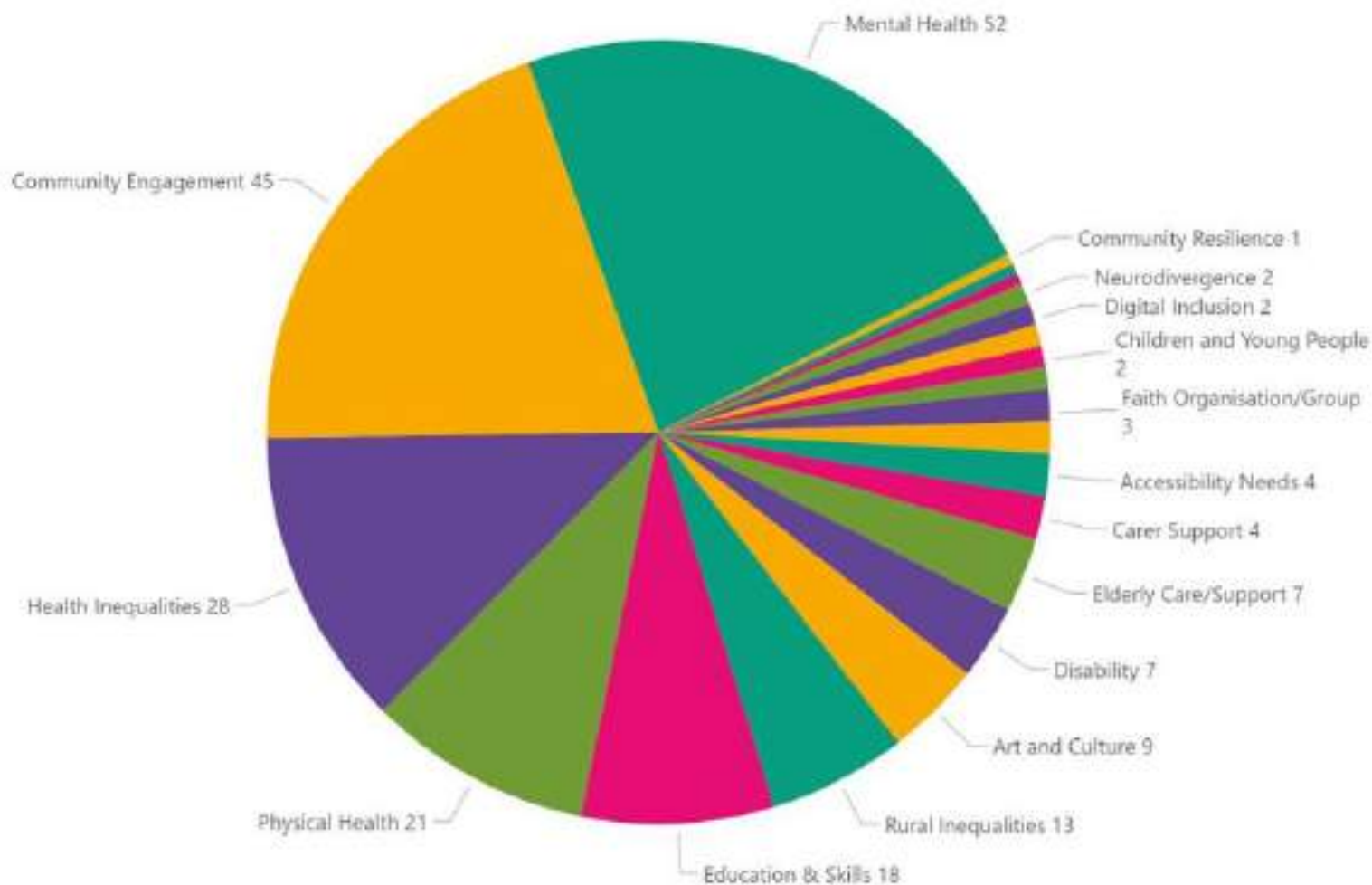
Financial Sustainability

Through our 1-1 support, training programme and development of connecting groups together has enabled organisations to increase their understanding of how to measure their impact and develop a greater understanding of sharing their story. Participants of the training sessions, including 'Measuring Your Impact', 'Writing an Effective Funding Bid' and 'Where does the Money Come From?' had 100% success rate on training effectiveness, evidencing that attendees are benefiting from the expertise being given.



Alongside this, our 1-1 support has connected organisations with appropriate funding sources to increase their awareness of opportunities, as well as supporting the writing of bids such as advising on structure and content, as well as proof reading. We will keep in contact with those organisations to hear their progress with those bids once they have had results back from their submissions. The impact of these activities is that the local voluntary sector is increasing their knowledge of making their organisations more financially sustainable and understanding how to evidence and showcase their impact to different audiences, enabling them to strengthen their offer sustainably and continue to support their communities.





The pie chart above shows us the areas in which these organisations work. Many organisations work in more than one of these areas, and it should be noted that the organisation might contribute to the area without that area being its main focus. This shows the wide coverage of support that the VCSE sector are providing in the area to support local communities.

Volunteer Management

The team have developed an offer in a multitude of ways to better support the VCSE sector in East Devon regarding volunteer management, including 1-1 support, dedicated training sessions on recruiting, supporting, and managing volunteers, and developing a volunteer managers network. These activities have impacted communities through increased understanding of how to recruit and retain volunteers, alongside developing connections between peers to share knowledge and to increase trusted relationships between others working in similar roles.

112 organisations have been provided with guidance and training



"We had the chance to talk in depth about our individual situations and I came out of it with a really clear idea of how I could implement improvements in my organisation."

"Some good ideas and very clear about what funders need."

"[The trainer] answered all my questions, even ones I didn't know I had!"

Business Management

Throughout the year we have been supporting people on a 1-1 basis regarding business planning and management, however in Q4 this was primarily focused on the training we have developed on the topic. Attendees of the training have stated

DCT has helped 4 organisations in East Devon to get set up

that they felt alongside the general training to the group, they also appreciated the opportunity to learn from others and gain 1-1 advice and support from the trainer due to providing small group sessions. To follow up on the training, we are going to contact those groups who attended to understand their progress on their plans and ascertain if they need more 1-1 support.

Connecting and Partnering

Through activities such as developing and managing the Devon Connect East Devon page and increasing engagement, sharing opportunities using social media and newsletters, developing relationships, peer support and shared learning through networks and training, and developing partnership work to address local agendas such as financial sustainability, organisations are developing a greater knowledge of local opportunities and how to share them with others. They are also developing relationships between each other to learn and share knowledge through schemes such as the Volunteer Managers Network, and through networking in the training sessions.



"Clear, informative presentation. Opportunity to share info and ideas with other village hall participants"

"Learned a lot from presenters and other trustees."

"Lots of ideas both from the coordinator and other participants having the opportunity to share successes and otherwise."

Adding value: Cross-over with other DCT projects in East Devon

DCT regularly have internal conversations across other projects we are running which are offering support, guidance or training to individuals and organisations in East Devon. By having additional projects operating in the district, we are inherently supporting the VCSE sector, and importantly we are able to build knowledge, and relationships which can lead to possible future support provision under this project's funds. These projects include:

- Supporting Devon's communities through the challenges of the energy crisis and increasing cost of living by providing support, advice in person or via phone or emails; www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project
- Supporting communities to develop their community emergency plan; a document that guides community response in an emergency and helps communities to prepare; www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum
- A community buildings audit designed to find out what community assets exist, what they currently offer and what they have the potential to offer; www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/village-halls-community-buildings-audit
- Encouraging local communities at risk to develop and deliver their own flood resilience interventions in collaboration with the project partner; www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/flood-and-coastal-resilience-innovation-programme-fcrip-managing-big-problems-small-places
- Providing a basic advice service to all community buildings, with our member halls benefiting from a more extensive service with on-going support in meeting needs; www.devoncommunities.org.uk/services/community-buildings This includes dedicated Enterprise Village Hall training and forming a village hall cluster.

Across DCT our projects not funded by UKSPF have engaged with individuals and organisations in the district⁵. For example:

- 7 communities in East Devon have created or updated their emergency plan via the DCRF project. DCT also held a Whole Society Resilience Event in March 2024.
- 34 pieces of advice given to 22 East Devon organisations including funding, trustee responsibilities and policy documents as part of our Community Building and Village Hall Advice project.
- A total of 43 village halls and community buildings (church halls etc.) have been audited in East Devon.
- The Energy Outreach project has supported 2 new community organisations in East Devon. The Food Rescue project evaluated 1 community fridge in Hemyock as part of their work looking into the impact of community fridges on food waste and local sustainability.



⁵ *Please note that the supported organisations through the wider work of DCT may include support to organisations East Devon Support Service project has also provided support to however the additional data has not been counted into the East Devon VCSE Infrastructure Support project's targets.

Next phase

The first year of the project has brought many successes, and also has enabled the team to understand further priorities and opportunities for capacity building in East Devon. Through analysing qualitative feedback from training sessions, 1-1 sessions and from further listening from communities in the district, the team have identified priorities for the next year.

Communities have provided positive feedback about the training programme delivered, and others have stated interest in further sessions. Accredited training such as First Aid and Safeguarding have also been noted as a need, so this will also be explored.

The team have reached many organisations over the year but are aware that there are quieter voices and gaps both geographically and demographically, which is important to address. A further gap analysis and profiling exercise will be developed and needs reviewed in order to widen the reach and support given.

The team are aware of the importance of legacy and ensuring that sustainable support can be provided ongoing. Activities such as developing resources, FAQ pages, talking heads videos and other support will be developed to support this goal. This will go alongside continued work in developing partnerships and relationships with the local sector and providing a community-led response.

- Training – launching Autumn 2024.
- Review community reach to date and conduct gap analysis.
- Review progress using the Theory of Change to ascertain future priorities and planning.
- Developing a FAQ section on the website, alongside Talking Heads video resources.
- Community profiling and understanding our reach.
- Continue collaboration with others and developing initiatives in partnership.

Appendix A – Additional Case Studies and quotes

Quotes:



Case Study: The Community Waffle House, Axminster

The Community Waffle House

DCT held one of the listening events in July 2023. The team has also attended their volunteering recruitment event (26 February 2024) for community organisations based in Axminster. The format of the event was in a speed dating. We met with over 12 organisations on the day and was able to promote the EDDC VCSE service as many were still unaware of the support, advice, and guidance we can provide. Below are a couple of examples the EDDC project is now in the process of supporting and advising.

- Pippins Community Centre and the No Toy Left Behind
- Axminster Community Shed

Take a look at Matt's reflections on the successful Axminster Volunteer Event!
<https://www.facebook.com/devoncommunities Together/videos/384722987825650/>



Link to our Facebook:

[ED Waffle House video with captions.mp4 | As part of our support service for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in East Devon, we assisted The Community Waffle House behind... | By Devon Communities Together Facebook | Facebook](#)



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Case Study: Heathfield Farm

Case Study: Heathfield Farm (<https://www.heathfieldfarm.org/>)



Heathfield Farm at Broadclyst, on a National Trust Site, near Exeter runs weekly day care activities for people with learning difficulties and autism. Activities include cooking, woodwork, and farming. Cuts to funding mean it may have to stop its services in the near future (less than 18months). Heathfield Farm made contact with us in early November, after seeing our posts on Facebook, and we arranged to visit them 2 weeks later.

A series of redundancies were made to the staff team in March, with a view to keep the organisation financially viable. This included the CEO and admin assistant. At the time of the initial meeting, an updated business plan is being developed but it is a work in progress and only at the stage of consultation with the service users. Nothing has been formulated as yet.

Support needs:

This meeting revealed a wealth of support needs for the organisation, including:

- Recruitment of (active) trustees
- Urgent funding for compost bins (£3k per annum is spent on the hire of portaloos and this is their second largest spend).
- Urgent funding for kitchen tap upgrades (Unable to gain Food Safety Certification as the current set-up doesn't meet the required standard).
- Funding for disability access (No access without outdoor mobility scooter, key for target demographic)
- Training for writing funding bids
- Recommendations for contacts in Devon County Council's Social work team.
- Networking with potential partner organisations.
- Funding to develop or rebuild the buildings on the site (the office is a caravan and not suitable during colder months).
- Support with financial reporting processes due to complications in staff/accountant turnover.
- Existing income comes from £65 per day per individual, but DCC have severely limited their referrals to the service due to funding cuts, and there are very few who pay privately to attend. Additional funds are secured from private rental income (site is available on Fridays for hire), and from sale of apple juice, but both of these are nominal sources. Informed Matt about Devon Community Learning Academy.

Actions:

After the meeting, and in ongoing email communications, DCT have supported Heathfield by:

- Connecting them with Robert Hawken Engagement Officer and Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board for DCC's Adult Social Care Involvement Team.
- Referred to them to St Sidwells Centre where a potential partnership could be developed (they have a gardening group).
- Connecting them with Folly Farm (near Chard) to provide knowledge sharing and inspiration, especially around compost toilets which they have successfully received funding for.
- Provided guidance on submitting financial accounts.
- Have signed up for the manager and admin staff members for two of our training offers in the new year regarding funding applications and financial management.
- Sent a link to potential funding sources and advised on the types of, projects funders are more likely to support (notably those with collaborative partnerships secured).
- Further conversations have since been held in January, and the site manager has been sent a series of business planning and financial forecasting templates alongside advice on how to approach these. He looks forward to joining our training sessions.

miro

Case Study: East Devon Village Hall Cluster



Case study - East Devon Village Hall Cluster

Village Hall Committee Members and Trustees are all volunteers dedicated to serving their local communities by keeping Halls up and running. They often face challenges such as fundraising for building maintenance and new equipment, finding new volunteers, digital upskilling, organising new events, and keeping up to date with an ever-changing world of legal matters.

The nature of rural Village Halls means Halls can be several miles apart, so volunteers from different Halls are remote from one another. They rarely get the opportunity to meet up to discuss common issues or challenges and share good practice and success stories.

Halls met to discuss topics of common interests and to learn from each other's halls. For many years Village Halls have provided vital services in rural areas; they help address rural isolation and loneliness and promote wellbeing by offering a variety of workshops, talks, and fitness classes, and provide meeting spaces for local groups. They also organise a wide variety of social get-togethers from coffee mornings to music nights. In addition, many Halls are also the designated place of safety during emergencies for communities.

The first East Devon Village Hall Cluster met on the 20th of March in Membury Village hall; Membury Village Hall, Whitford Village Hall, Dunkeswell Village Hall and Gittisham Village Hall attended. The next one will be in June.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/east-devon-vase-support-service



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Case Study: Exmouth Stroke Survivors Club

Case Study: Exmouth Stroke Survivors Club (www.exmouthstrokesurvivorsclub.com)



We were contacted by Stephen Beer of Exmouth Stroke Survivors Club (www.exmouthstrokesurvivorsclub.com) on the 21st of November, who made a general support request for assistance with fund raising and finding a new treasurer.

We immediately asked for him to provide information about the constitution of the group and details of any funding applications recently made, and arranged to meet him the following week.

Upon meeting we learnt more about Stephen's and Exmouth Stroke Survivors Club's context. The club has a membership of 79 with 25 regular members attending weekly events. On Monday's and Friday's the group use the Bidmead Community Centre as a warm space for the group, this costs members £2 and they are served breakfast.

Support needs:

- Stephen is unhappy with the current treasurer as they're slow to act upon requests. The treasurer is willing to leave if another person can be found. They are currently paying for an Admin service from a 3rd party at a cost of £84 per month. This is covered by Stephen's own expense. This is a part of the reason for needing a new volunteer treasurer.
- They're in the process of purchasing a minibus which has been adapted to their needs and requirements at a cost of £596 x 36 = £21,240. This will enable the group to offer more services to their members and the wider community. The purpose of the minibus is to provide shopping and day trips and for medical appointments. The group have a volunteer drive in place. The minibus will be able to take up to 7 passengers maximum with the seats removed.
- The group are in the process of purchasing mobility scooters again to provide an alternative service to what is already on offer.
- The hall, and breakfast is an area where there is a possibility to expand and gain income. The cost of the hall is £15 ph. which is mainly paid by Stephen personally.
- There is the possibility of leasing property with a shop front and space in the rear to facilitate their activities. This is in the early stages and further research is required. However, Stephen is keen to proceed with a plan as he believes independent property will benefit the group.
- The group no longer work with the National Stroke Association as Stephen believes they didn't provide the level of support and guidance he would have liked.
- They were also asking for assistance for £200 to help run/facilitate their Christmas dinner, Stephen was very distressed at not being able to facilitate their Christmas dinner this year, said to be relied upon by several members.

Actions:

During initial meetings and ongoing email communications DCT supported with the following actions:

- DCT mentioned Exmouth Community Transport but Stephen wasn't impressed with their services, mainly because they're booked or not available at a suitable time. DCT also highlighted the benefits of using the MiDAS driving scheme to the group, and reminded of the need for having a back-up driver plan in place. DCT are due to contact Exmouth Community Transport to better understand their service provision and shortfalls if any.
- DCT provided a tailored outline for a Volunteer Treasurer Role for the club to consider. This was very gratefully received.
- DCT arranged to facilitate an Energy Efficiency workshop for the group (this took place early January 2024, with 9 attendees).
- DCT sent information regarding funding for a library service and advised about the availability of grants from local councillor's community funds and supermarkets and business sponsorships. We advised that usually funding for one off events like Christmas meals are hard to secure, and a wider strategy should be considered. We have informed Stephen we are happy to look over any past or current funding applications to provide feedback and pointers. DCT requested documents relating to the minibus, scooter and shop premises projects, to enable provision of assistance and guidance. These have not been received to date, and may be a source of future support.
- DCT have agreed a follow-up meeting with Stephen Beer for the new year and will keep working with him. miro

Appendix B – Contracting outputs

EDDC Targets

The following EDDC outcome targets are reported against on a quarterly basis.

Outcome	Targets achieved April 2023 to April 2024	Overall Year 1 target
Number of organisations engaged with	135	60
Number of organisations helped to get set up	4	4
Number of organisations helped to develop a business plan	6	8
Number of organisations helped to apply for funding	29	24
Number of organisations helped to publicise their offer	25	24
Number of organisations provided with guidance and training	122	60
Number of organisations worked with to become more sustainable	29	24
Number of schemes run to help to share best practice between organisations	8	4

Shared Prosperity Fund Targets UK

The following UKSPF outcome targets are reported against on a quarterly basis.

Outputs	Targets achieved April 2023 to April 2024	Overall Year 1 target
Number of organisations receiving non- financial support (numerical value)	63	50
Number of facilities supported/created (numerical value)	4	3
Number of tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved (numerical value)	3	3
Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value)	116	30
Improved engagement numbers (people)	129	10