

Devon Communities Together: Measuring Our Impact

Q1 April - June 2023

LOVE
DEVON

WE HAVE DEVELOPED 6 STRATEGIC AIMS WHICH SIT AT THE CENTRE OF ALL OUR ACTIVITIES AND FORM THE BASIS FOR OUR ORGANISATION THEORY OF CHANGE FRAMEWORK.

DCT WILL ...



WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY A PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING...



OBJECTIVE

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

Analysed data from **70**
people (22 in Mid Devon
and 42 in North Devon) to
produce insights into barriers to
taking the Covid-19 vaccine



Trained **59** people at
8 sessions on how to
support people to use public
transport with confidence



Conducted **1** railway
station accessibility
audit with **2** volunteers
aged 55+



Supported local VCSE partners to gather
insights into rural lived health experiences
from 44 people
(38 in North Dartmoor and 6 in Ilfracombe)



COMMUNITY STORIES OF HEALTH INEQUALITIES

The NHS Core20Plus5 Community Connectors programme established Volunteer Connectors in two areas – North Dartmoor and Ilfracombe – which have been identified as being amongst those with the highest rate of health inequalities in Devon. Connectors help to bring people's lived experience of key health issues into the spotlight.

As the evaluation partner for the Devon Core20Plus5 Rural Community Connector programme, during April and May, 44 rural residents in North Dartmoor and Ilfracombe contributed their experiences of accessing health services and the barriers they faced. In order to bring their insights to life, we encouraged and supported the local Community Connectors to present them creatively, using audio, video, visuals and blogs

Data analysed by DCT showed that, rather than the 'core clinical areas', people wanted to talk about the lack of dentists and pharmacies, the difficulty of getting to hospitals for appointments given the poor public transport network, and the closure of local services. These findings were presented at the Population Health Steering Group and Delivery Group meetings in May. June saw a presentation to the One Devon Partnership Board.



OUTCOMES

People in both areas understand that their views and experiences can be represented at a high level within the health services.

They have shared their opinions and experiences, and others have a genuine interest in seeing what can and should be done to improve them.

IMPACT

The evaluation of the project demonstrates its value and will inform the decision making process around a potential scaling up of the Connector programme.








BARRIERS TO TAKING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Funded by the Covid-19 Vaccination Outreach Fund, DCT was commissioned to undertake a rural outreach engagement programme with specific rural groups and communities where the uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination is lower, to understand the barriers.

During April we analysed the data captured across two community events (in North and Mid Devon), as well as other engagement activities such as 1-2-1 conversations. Overall, we spoke to 70 people from the target cohort groups - 22 residents in Mid Devon and 48 residents in North Devon.

A SELECTION OF KEY FINDINGS

-  The reliability, availability, and affordability of public transport to vaccination centres was identified as a barrier by over 70% of those we spoke to
-  Accessibility and support for people with disabilities at some vaccination centres was not always adequate
-  Digital exclusion of the elderly population as well as among carers were also a barrier
-  The importance of taking the vaccine was consistently high (around 85%) amongst those interviewed
-  Around 90% of people stated their main motivation for taking the vaccine was to feel safe and ensure the safety of others in their community

One  Devon

NHS

OUTCOMES

We were able to produce recommendations to One Devon NHS, including the need for:

- Good networks with organisations who know communities and to make good use of existing networks
- Investment in local services and the availability of relevant resources
- An understanding that for many “Covid-19 was not their biggest concern”, with vulnerable groups facing challenges related to drugs, alcohol, poverty, debt, housing issues or anxiety, which can take precedence over getting vaccinated

IMPACT

The barriers to getting the vaccine are better understood and can be addressed.



TACKLING LONELINESS AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

DCT has been a delivery partner on the Department for Transport funded, Devon County Council-led 'Connecting You' initiative, which aimed to tackle loneliness and isolation using transport to help people connect with people and services. The project delivery ends in July 2023.

DCT has devised a package of travel training to enable organisations such as care companies and community groups to support their clients who face barriers to travel. This includes a travel training handbook for organisations and a traveller's guide for their clients. During Q1 we held eight training sessions, attended by 59 people from 10 organisations.

Also, during this period, we were invited to take part in research by Aberystwyth University, around accessibility of railway stations. We sourced two participants from local organisations (including Age UK and Living Options) to take part, auditing Newton Abbot station in terms of its accessibility for older people and feeding our findings into the research.



WHAT NEXT?

As delivery on Connecting You wraps up shortly, we began looking at two new initiatives that will build on the momentum from the project. We have been asked to contribute to research led by Exeter University focusing on everyday mobility at older age and we have also partnered with Living Options to apply for funding from Motability. This new project will draw on our combined knowledge, skills and experience to inform organisations and the general public about the transport needs of disabled and Deaf people, and facilitate the co-design of innovative approaches to enable disabled and Deaf people to make full use of rural transport options. More on these in future Impact Reports! www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/connecting-you

OUTCOMES

All the organisations taking part fed back that they would use the training with their clients. Travel Training guidance has been modified as a result of undertaking the training to include guidance on mobility scooter access to buses.

IMPACT

The Travel Training and its legacy will continue to help reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing through greater use of public transport.

CASE STUDY

WELLMOOR DAY TRIPPERS

Wellmoor Day Trippers from Moretonhampstead have been using a community mini bus to take trips to destinations across Devon. Following one of DCT's Travel Training sessions, the volunteer leaders wondered whether it might be a good idea to begin using public transport instead of a minibus, to build confidence.

Smaller groups are taken out now due to challenging logistics of having large groups on public buses but people's experience of using public transport is increasing. Interestingly, some keen attendees in 'phase 1' loved being able to go on specific minibus trips but aren't signing up for public transport trips because they may find it challenging and because ideas of places to visit shrunk when not using the minibus. We hope that the legacy of the Travel Training will help more people overcome their uncertainty so they can venture out both in groups and independently.



OBJECTIVE

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

46 virtual ward
(hospital at
home) patients
supported



30.75 hours of
support facilitated
for Virtual Wards
patients

83 nights spent on
Virtual Wards by pilot
participants, equivalent
to a **£95,012** to the
NHS if they had been in
hospital

Attendance at **4** ICS Population
Health Management and **2** ICS
Digital Inclusion Strategy
meetings

16 hours of NHS time
saved by providing digital
support to Virtual Wards



SUPPORTING PEOPLE ON VIRTUAL WARDS

DCT was part of an innovative VCSE alliance to provide wraparound non-clinical care to patients on Virtual Wards, who were receiving hospital care remotely in their own homes.

We recently concluded the three-month pilot, with 46 patients being treated under the 'hospital at home' scheme by the Royal Devon University Healthcare Trust as part of the Virtual Ward VCSE Pilot. We acted as the hub, referring patients to partner organisations for support, including digital support with devices and help to undertake day-to-day tasks, to ensure that their experience was as positive as possible.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/virtual-wards-acute-hospital-home



OUTCOMES

Overall, 30.75 hours of non-clinical support was provided by seven VCSE organisations. Feedback about the pilot was 100% positive and we are working with commissioners to examine the potential for future programmes, particularly around digital support and support for unpaid carers.

IMPACT

The value of VCSE partnership working was demonstrated. Patients could recover in the comfort of their own home but had someone to turn to for digital and wraparound support. This in turn saved the NHS precious hospital beds, staff resource and appointment times. Feedback from patients indicated that they were more relaxed and comfortable at home and they all indicated that they would use the scheme if needed in the future.

Combined feedback from Hospital staff stated:

“The support of VCSE partners really helped reduce the stress of this part of our role. It reduced us having to try and talk people through fixing things over the phone and reduced bringing people back in to problem solve... It also allowed us to give more complicated devices to people who wouldn't have otherwise been able to manage them. [The pilot] helped us to continue delivering a high standard of care to people once they left the hospital. I know our patients felt well supported by the service and as staff we felt that we could rely on [the VCSE partners] to provide a quality [service] to anybody and at short notice. I think this pilot has been very successful and I would like to see it continue.”



LEARNING FROM PUBLIC HEALTH INSIGHTS

Last quarter we completed our project with the Devon County Council (DCC) Public Health Outreach Team to collect and analyse insights about the ways in which Public Health Services could be delivered in the community.

You can read our series of case studies here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-public-health-insights

During Q1, we conducted a review of the cross-sectoral, collaborative approach adopted between DCC and DCT during this work, which culminated in a series of key learnings and recommendations for next steps in the development of DCC and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector partnership working. Read the Partnership Working report using the link above.

CROSS SECTOR WORKING AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

We continue to contribute to a number of partnerships and programmes looking at health inequalities in Devon.

1. DCT is a member of the cross-sectoral Digital Transformation Board, linking with the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Digital Inclusion Group. The Board oversees and supports digital healthcare infrastructure development, including Electronic Patient Records and the Devon and Cornwall Care Record as key components of the Devon Integrated Care Service (ICS)-wide Digital Strategy. The shared care record is the first phase of a larger project to allow the sharing of critical patient data across health and care systems in order to



OUTCOMES

We shared a series of recommendations, including creating procedures for collaborative, flexible working; building in co-design phases to projects, particularly with time to engage with grass roots community stakeholders; and facilitating greater opportunities for true collaboration, for example joint training, shadowing, secondments and other partnership working.

IMPACT

The value of genuine, process-driven collaboration between the statutory and voluntary sectors has been demonstrated and can inform future policy.



Public Health Devon



improve efficiency and deliver improved patient care.

2. Our CEO, Nora, continued to co-chair the Integrated Care Service Digital Inclusion Strategy Group, which provides cross-sectoral leadership and learning across Devon to ensure that everyone who wants to can access and benefit from digital healthcare, while tackling rural inequalities in access, experience, and outcomes. The VCSE partners have brought a focus on supporting and investing in good practice/innovation by local community organisations.

3. DCT is co-applicant and delivery partner in the University of Plymouth led Devon Community Assets Research Collaborative linking with Integrated Care Systems. With a focus in the quarter on South Brent, we bring our asset based community development approach to this research into health disparities in Devon's rural and coastal communities.

OBJECTIVE

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

20

engagement events/meetings about nature-based community flood resilience measures facilitated/



62 people attended a Devon Community Resilience Forum event to support people with developing Community Emergency Plans



5 new or redeveloped Community Emergency Plans in progress



£1590.91 Community Emergency grants processed



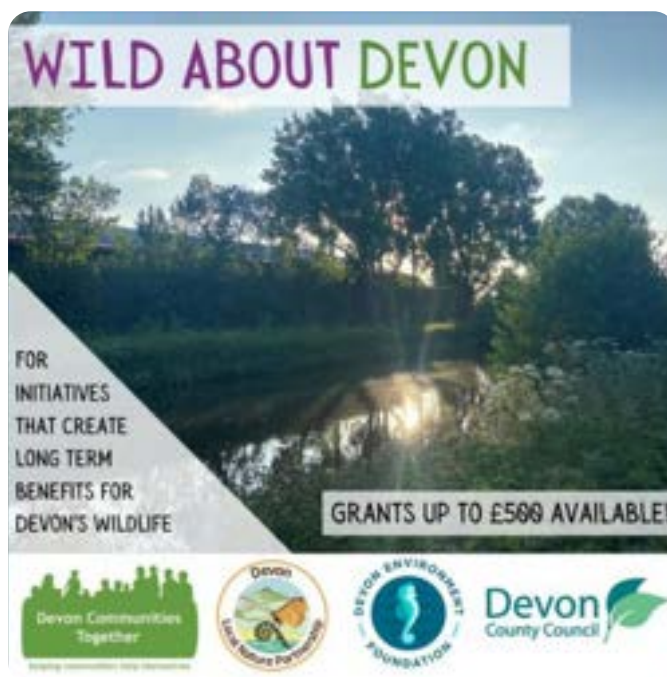
34 community wildlife grants awarded with a value of £8,884



FUNDING COMMUNITY WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Funded by the Devon Environment Foundation, Devon Communities Together and Devon County Council, the Wild About Devon Grant Scheme, 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.

During Q1 we were pleased to be able to fund 34 community projects, allocating a total of £8,884. Successful applicants included a wildlife festival designed to launch a local wildlife group, pond restoration, wildlife meadow planting and wildlife monitoring. Most projects are in their early stages, with some waiting until autumn to undertake planting or other seasonally sensitive activity. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/wild-about-devon-community-wildlife-grant-scheme-2023



OUTCOMES

Small community wildlife projects have the necessary funds to move forward and play a part in addressing the ecological emergency.

IMPACT

Communities are engaged in small scale projects that can make a big difference to the local environment.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES WITH FLOOD RESILIENCE



DRIP (Devon Resilience Innovation Project), funded by DEFRA and managed by Devon County Council is designed to help communities become more resilient to flooding through a series of pilot projects encompassing natural flood management, property flood resilience, a flood warning app, and an online Flood Hub (currently under development). DCT's primary role is to ensure that different groups have suitable routes to understand the themes of the project in an engaging way. During this quarter we have attended 20 meetings and events. <https://tinyurl.com/2p87uud5>

OUTCOMES

- Communication now uses plain English rather than scientific language
- Relationships have been facilitated between Parish Councils and the local pilot project managers
- Fun tools such as the Flood Tank, Grab Bag game and Resilience Bingo are now being used at events to engage the public

IMPACT

Communities will be more resilient to flooding.



DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM



Managed by DCT, Devon Community Resilience Forum supports communities to develop Community Emergency Plans, that will help keep people and property safe in the event of an emergency, such as major flooding.

In this quarter, we hosted our bi-annual resilience event, providing a full day of presentations and workshops for local communities. It was attended by 62 people representing 23 Devon communities.

Aside from those at the event, 19 other groups have received support with planning, grants and equipment. Those impacted by flash flooding in East Devon have been offered an emergency grant to help them recover and then prepare for future scenarios. We are engaging with Newton Poppleford, Harpford, Northmostown, Tipton St John and Ottery St Mary to apply for emergency flood grants and to work on their emergency plan.

Grants of £1590.91 have been processed with 3 more in the pipeline.

We also developed a Facebook group to facilitate peer learning and interactivity between the community groups we work with.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum

OUTCOMES

Communities have been upskilled, supported and funded to plan for emergency situations.

IMPACT

Communities are better prepared to respond in emergencies, protecting people and property.



“

Thank you - and everyone involved. It's amazing. There's a good feeling of happiness here today. It will be fantastic to do something practical to start to make things better - and to be able to tell people. I know it's not a magic wand that will solve all ills but it's a very positive step in the right direction for all sorts of reasons. We can't thank you enough.”

Vicky Whitworth, Chardstock Eco Group, resilience grant recipient

COMMUNITY FRIDGES

We developed and promoted a survey for visitors to Oke and Exeter Community Fridges to evaluate how the fridges (funded by The National Lottery and delivered by Devon County Council) are reducing food waste and supporting food redistribution.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-food-rescue

OUTCOMES

We gathered data from 82 individuals.

IMPACT

The learnings will help shape the fridges going forward.



OBJECTIVE

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



19 contacts with village halls to support them with specialist advice, including **2** pieces of funding advice



Analysed the results of **239** stakeholders and **7** pilot sites for the new Devon Land Use Framework

214 VCSE organisations directly contacted during launch of new support service in East Devon



Gave **557** people in **2** parishes the opportunity to contribute to surveys about local housing need

55 village hall audits undertaken during Q1 (262 to date)



41,267 litres of oil ordered by members of the Devon Oil Collective



NEW VCSE SUPPORT FOR EAST DEVON

East Devon District Council has contracted Devon Communities Together to deliver a new support service for VCSE organisations across East Devon. We will be providing advice, support and training for the whole sector in areas such as governance, training, funding and volunteer support.

During Q1 we launched the service via an email newsletter to 214 VCSE organisations and issued a press release for wider reach. We also began planning a series of summer drop-ins and attended both the Eastern LCP: Social Isolation & Loneliness Prevention Steering Group and Reference Group.

TESTING THE DEVON LAND USE FRAMEWORK

DCT was the stakeholder engagement partner in the Devon pilot, which informed the national Land Use Framework. Before we wrapped up the pilot in June, we facilitated a lively discussion with Devon Young Farmers, which encouraged them to think about how they will approach land use decisions in the future.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-land-use-framework

DEVON COMMUNITY HOUSING HUB

As facilitators of the Devon Community Housing Hub, we distributed two Rural Housing Need Surveys during Q1, in Dunsford and West Down and finalised another, in Moretonhampstead. Working closely with Moretonhampstead, Dunsford and West Down Parish Councils, the Housing Need Surveys have been adapted to better reflect the needs of local communities and gain more valuable insights. www.devonhousinghub.org



This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/east-devon-vcse-support-service

OUTCOMES

Hundreds of VCSE organisations are aware of the new support service.

IMPACT

Organisations will be better supported to deliver their valuable services to benefit people in East Devon.



OUTCOMES

Different stakeholders have been able to engage with and interpret the six guiding principles of the framework.

IMPACT

Future land use will be governed by a broader range of principles that incorporate people, plant and economy.



OUTCOMES

People have had the opportunity to contribute to the potential future housing provision in their communities.

IMPACT

Affordable rural housing and robust neighbourhood planning contribute to diverse, thriving communities driven by local people.

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS: BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY ASSET MAP

Thanks to funding from Devon Public Health, our Village Halls Community Asset Map continues at pace, with an additional 55 halls visited, audited and added to the map during Q1, making it 262 halls in total.

Through face-to-face visits to the halls, we are keen to establish whether Village Halls could be developed further to benefit their community, for example as health and wellbeing hubs where confidential spaces in Village Halls could be used for online medical appointments, or as hubs for electrical charging points and a host of other useful community facilities.

We also linked up with our Enterprising Halls project (p.17), with 74% of attendees on that project being referred through our visits, taking us up on the opportunity to learn more about how they could diversify and develop their halls.

Outside of the auditing process, we've also supported our member halls with ongoing advice, having restructured and broadened our DCT Village Halls team to provide support with a whole range of subjects.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/village-halls-community-buildings-audit

OUTCOMES

Through our audit visits, we have been able to directly provide support to hall committees, through referrals to Enterprising Halls, or specialist advice, for example on governance, accessibility, health and safety and hire agreements.

IMPACT

The intelligence from the audit demonstrates the huge potential that halls have for benefitting their communities even more, by facilitating vital services.

“It has thrown up some questions to think about such as having a bench outside where people can wait, coloured doorframes, large letters/braille on signs.”

“One can feel left out and forgotten here, so it was nice that someone came out and showed interest in the hall and the village.”

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND ENGAGEMENT

DCT was commissioned to engage the local community around Batsworthy in conversations about the Batsworthy Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, a fund that is managed by Devon Community Foundation. devoncf.com/grants/batsworthy-cross-wind-farm-community-fund/

We held a community event, attended by 31 people who shared their perspectives on the application process and explored new projects that the fund could support.

OUTCOMES

Nine out of the ten parishes eligible for the fund were represented by attendees at the event, which gathered important community feedback.

IMPACT

The learnings will help to shape the future of the fund and its application process, ensuring the community receives maximum benefit.

OBJECTIVE

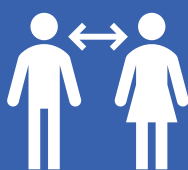
...support Devon's rural economy, local entrepreneurs and businesses to develop and thrive, and promote community wealth building



17 in-person coaching visits made to small businesses, village halls and social enterprises



25 clients completed 12 hours' 1-2-1 coaching and group workshops



Engaged with **15** mentors of young people to understand and evaluate their experiences of supporting people towards employment



259 members of Devon Social Enterprise Network

Provided **26** hours of 1-2-1 coaching and online training to support Devon-based micro businesses and social enterprises



SUPPORTING SMALL ENTERPRISES

During the last quarter we concluded our New Start Devon programme, which received funding from the European Regional Development Fund to provide a minimum of 12 hours' free online coaching and enterprise support to help people develop their enterprises or business ideas.

During Q1 we supported 25 clients with 26 hours of 1-2-1 coaching, through a combination of online workshops and in-person site visits to really encourage and energise people to build on the new skills and ideas they've gained from the programme. This included participants on our Enterprising Halls programme, through which Village Halls committees received support around developing their buildings as enterprises, for example diversifying income streams and financing capital projects.

OUTCOMES

Data from across the whole programme, which began in 2019, demonstrates:

- We engaged with 80 existing businesses and 113 potential entrepreneurs, totalling 193 participants
- Of these, 119 completed the full 12 hours' support, 66 received partial support and eight were signposted to other support services
- At least eight new enterprises were established*
- At least 12.5 jobs have been created*

IMPACT

Small enterprises in Devon have been upskilled to grow, develop, create jobs and provide important services, contributing to our local economy.



"I've found the sessions extremely useful at a great time for launching a new business. It will stand me in good stead personally and gives me and my business partner a shared experience to draw on." Sara Hurley, Forum Communication Coaching

"Lockdown had a huge impact on my freelance business ... [DCT] helped me work through a really tough time and has enabled me to come out the other side with a plan that will not only help to me to recover lost income, but also find balance in the ongoing difficult circumstances that the pandemic has created." Claire, Tinbox Traveller



"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, The Academy of Wide Hearted Living

*We were not able to retrieve data from all participants, therefore actual figures may be higher.

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE

Empowering Enterprise was funded by European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund, with DEFRA grant match funding. The project was a partnership of organisations delivering mentoring for the 'hardest-to-reach' 18–24-year-olds in Devon. Participant delivery finished in March 2023, and as the evaluation partners, DCT spent Q1 focusing on creating an end of project evaluation report, which can be read here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/building-better-opportunities-empowering-enterprise

Over the course of the project...



177 young people moved into job search



215 moved into education and training

We also engaged with 15 mentors who worked directly with the participants to understand their experiences, collating learnings and recommendations for future mentoring projects.

“Previously I've been in some tutoring roles and there is quite a big difference. [When mentoring] you can really be yourself and the way that you connect with these young people on a deeper level, you can help them achieve so much more. It's not just about employability, you're helping them emotionally, you're helping them with all sorts of things - housing, support services, and some things they don't even realise that they needed. [Mentoring is] giving that full package of support to a young person and being able to tailor it in your own way.”
Nessa, Eat That Frog Mentor



EXPERIENCE WORKS

Experience Works supports young people aged 16 – 24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming so. It is funded by the European Social Fund and the lead partner is Petroc College, with DEFRA grant match funding. DCT is again the evaluation partner, while also delivering employer and community engagement.

During this quarter, we made an observational visit to the 'Get into Sport' programme with 20 participants, run by the Princes Trust. We also delivered a travel training session (p.6) for Groundwork South, where we upskilled team members in how to support people to use public transport with confidence. We additionally supported a project participant to travel to an interview and another participant who uses a mobility scooter to travel to college. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/experience-works-0

OUTCOMES

Young people have greater skills and confidence to access opportunities to further their careers through training, education or employment.

Learnings and best practice around mentoring young people have been gathered and shared.

IMPACT

Recommendations from our evaluation of these projects will help to inform further service delivery to support young people into employment.



OBJECTIVE

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

260 people came along to our 20 training, learning and networking events



Hosted 2 staff training sessions to upskill the DCT team



Facilitated 38 students from the Netherlands to visit Devon for 2 weeks, to conduct studies for their International Development Studies



Gained 2 new ISO accreditations, 9001 and 14001



Attended 1 Summer agricultural show, the Devon County Show, to engage with new members of the community (3 more planned)





TRAINING FOR OURSELVES AND OUR COMMUNITIES

During Q1, we facilitated 20 learning, training or networking sessions, attracting 260 attendees.

These included training delivered by Citizens Advice Teignbridge for people who work with those on low incomes, to help them maximise their income. We also delivered training as part of Connecting You (p.6), Devon Community Resilience Forum (p.12) and New Start Devon (p.17).

As part of our commitment to developing as a learning organisation, we also organised two team training sessions, with our core delivery team enjoying a deep dive into the Theory of Change (to help evaluate the impact of our projects) and all our staff familiarising ourselves with our newly acquired ISO standards, 9001 and 14001 - and how we maintain them. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/courses

OUTCOMES

260 people have new knowledge and skills to make a difference in their communities.

IMPACT

Services and projects in the community can be improved and developed by the attendees of our courses.

HOSTING DUTCH STUDENTS IN DEVON

DCT organised transportation and accommodation for 38 students from Wageningen University, who visited Devon for two weeks this summer as part of their International Development Studies residential field trip.

They met local people and groups and completed projects on the communities they explored. For example, one student met with the Newton Abbot District Allotment Association to explore sustainable food production and another investigated the relationship between music and wellbeing in Teignmouth.

OUTCOMES

38 students had a unique opportunity to conduct research and develop their studies in Devon.

IMPACT

Engaging with host families and local communities enabled everyone to gain real evidence and share meaningful experiences.



“I was welcomed into my host family with open arms and have felt welcome from the moment that I arrived. I noticed during my stay, there is a feeling of community everywhere you go. From going to the seaside, to visiting a café and attending a pub quiz, you are welcomed by the people that live there.”

Liane Peeters, stayed in Exmouth

“I really had a great time! I engaged with PEG, Pyworthy Environmental Group. They were all very helpful, kind and open for interviews.”

Merel Mali, stayed in Pyworthy

DEVON COUNTY SHOW

In May we hosted a stand at the three-day Devon County Show, inviting visitors to talk to us about their communities, their achievements, their concerns and needs. In total we engaged at length with 36 people, with over 300 others stopping by to pick up a copy of our annual LOVE Devon magazine: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/love-devon-magazine

Visitors to the stand also had the chance to make their own bird feeder and create their 'ideal' community using craft materials and toys to represent the infrastructure and services!



OUTCOMES

Awareness of DCT and our work has been raised among the wider public and we have been able to follow up specific requests for support or further information where needed.

IMPACT

In the future people will know where they can come for help with developing their community projects.



THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS...

