



Devon County Council Grant Funding Agreement

Devon Communities Together:
Measuring Our Impact

Q2 July - September 2023



OUR 6 STRATEGIC AIMS SIT AT THE CENTRE OF ALL OUR ACTIVITIES.

DCT WILL ...



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



£666k
SOCIAL
VALUE IN
Q2!

MEASURING OUR SOCIAL VALUE

DCT is continuing to invest in our measuring our social value by working with consultancy Rose Regeneration and other Rural Community Councils across England, on a bespoke, nationally accredited measurement tool, The Social Value Engine, to accurately record and analyse the value that our work with communities is generating right here in Devon.

We are working hard to continuously refine and improve our measurement, using data from our projects, our staff and trustee team and - most importantly - outcomes from our communities to input into the engine. We're pleased to report that during Q2 we generated £666.06K in social value. The chart below shows how the value was dispersed across our six strategic aims (pg. 2).

Social Value by
Strategic Aim (see pg.
2)

1. £36.88k (5.54%)

2. £167.25k (25.11%)

3. £71.53k (10.74%)

4. £40.99k (6.15%)

5. £95.75k (14.38%)

6. £253.66k (38.08%)



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



Produced **1** final evaluation report on the Connecting You project to tackle loneliness with transport, which supported **1,854** participants from rural Devon

£36.88k
social
value



Trained **11** people at **2** sessions on how to support people to use public transport with confidence (**125** people trained across the whole project)

Produced and shared **1** final evaluation report encompassing **75** lived experience stories of health in Ilfracombe and Okehampton



CONNECTING YOU

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. Project delivery ended in July 2023.

This quarter, DCT delivered the final two travel training sessions to upskill rural community groups in how to support their service users to use public transport with more confidence and knowledge. These

sessions were attended by 11 staff and volunteers.

We also completed the end of project report, which will be available shortly.

We continued our collaboration with Living Options Devon to co-design a collaborative Motability funding bid, designed to provide a programme of support to build the confidence of people with disabilities and their carers. The bid was submitted in September and we await the outcome.

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

“ One chap who comes on the trips had always relied on his brother, never really left the town and he can't read or write. Recently he took the trip down to Slapton on the public bus! ... people used to stay in their own 'spheres' and now they are more interlinked and less isolated.”

Torie, 'Day Trippers' Project Manager, Wellmoor (travel training attendee)



Key achievements taken from the Connecting You report

OUTCOMES

There are many examples from the project which show that beneficiaries have increased their confidence in travelling and renewed or increased their use of public transport.

IMPACT

People at risk of loneliness and isolation can now access places, people and services that can help to reduce their loneliness.

What we identified as hugely important in achieving this, is recognising the needs of individuals and how we provide achievable steps towards independence on public transport.

A FIRST INDEPENDENT BUS JOURNEY

Kazlum Support Ltd, an enabling service, attended a DCT-led travel training workshop during Q2. Since then they have supported a service user who has epilepsy to become familiar with a bus route and adopted a graded approach to him using the bus.

He has now taken a bus journey on his own and the staff met him at the other end. This was the source of a great sense of achievement for the service user. This service user may not ever become fully independent with transport but travelling on the bus alone has itself had a positive psychological impact on him.



UNDERSTANDING EXPERIENCES OF RURAL AND COASTAL DEPRIVATION

The NHS Core 20+5 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, DCT’s involvement in the delivery of project came to an end in May and during Q2, we developed the final project report, which can be viewed here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing

The report used a co-designed ‘Theory of Change’ framework to measure the impact of the programme and the 75 lived experience stories that were collated. Evidence demonstrates that impact objectives 1 and 3 below were largely achieved (1 and 3, green). There is less evidence to demonstrate that impact objective 2 has been achieved at this point (amber) as that relies on the lived experience stories being analysed and responded to by One Devon NHS & partners, through a system change approach.



Devon Core20 + 5 Co-designed Theory of Change Objectives

- Objective 1** Communities, partners, health and care providers, and decision makers have a better understanding of local needs relating to health inequalities through effective engagement, with more people having the opportunity to tell their story
- Objective 2** People have a better understanding of support available, have improved confidence and motivation, and find it easier to access health and care
- Objective 3** Volunteers and people with lived experiences are recognised as key contributors to the NHS Core 20 objectives

“*Although the project is reaching its end now, I feel like in some ways this is just the beginning of the Core 20 project. People have shared their opinions and stories and experiences, and others have a genuine interest in seeing what can and should be done to improve them. We’ve lit the end of a very long, but exciting fuse! Let’s hope great things come from the flame at the end.*” North Dartmoor Community Connector Co-ordinator

OUTCOMES

A final project report containing 75 lived experience stories has been produced and shared with the participating communities and all key strategic service designers and decision makers in Devon.

IMPACT

The project has successfully highlighted the value of lived experience and it is hoped that a systems approach inclusive of these experiences will be adopted to make a positive impact on reducing health inequalities in the future.



STRATEGIC AIM

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



Planning **1** Rural Community Practice Study to investigate 'Deep End' rural networking, with GP practice, village hall and other local partners in South Brent



Supported the community in Tipton St John plan a community consultation for a new sports pavilion at **2** steering group meetings

£167.25k
social value

Produced and shared **1** pilot evaluation report produced on the East Devon Virtual Wards VCSE pilot programme with key stakeholders, who can use the findings to inform future Virtual Wards provision



A NEW SPORTS FACILITY FOR TIPTON ST JOHN

DCT is supporting the community in Tipton St John with a community consultation about replacing the sports pavilion with a new facility that will provide up-to-date facilities for the benefit of the community.

During Q2 we helped to design and distribute a community survey and began planning for events to be held in Q3, including a workshop with local school children who would share their ideas for the new facilities by using Lego and a community consultation event that will facilitate face-to-face consultations with the community.



OUTCOMES

The community has opportunities to have their say their new sports facility.

IMPACT

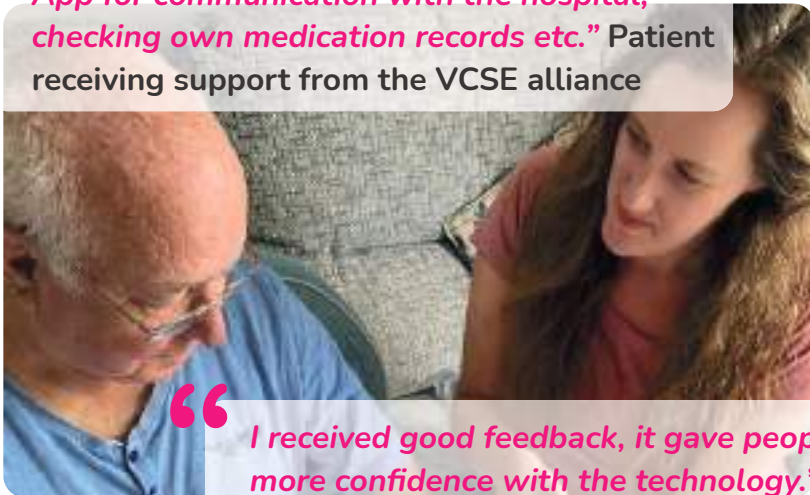
A new community sports facility will positively impact the health and wellbeing of the community in Tipton St John.

EVALUATING VIRTUAL WARDS VCSE SUPPORT

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.

During Q2 we produced a full final pilot report, alongside a shorter, bite-sized report that highlighted the key themes. Both reports can be viewed here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing

“*Definitely more confident using the MyCare App for communication with the hospital, checking own medication records etc.*” Patient receiving support from the VCSE alliance



“*I received good feedback, it gave people more confidence with the technology.*”

Virtual Ward staff member

OUTCOMES

The report has been shared with key strategic decision makers, with a view to engaging VCSE support in future Virtual Ward pilots.

IMPACT

The intelligence gained from this pilot can inform and improve the experiences of future patients on Virtual Wards.





CAN-DO: A NEW COMMUNITY ASSETS RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

DCT is a partner in a new Plymouth University-led Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded research project: Devon Community Assets Research Collaborative - CAN-DO.

We have begun working on a number of areas, including a Rural Community Practice Study based in South Brent, which will explore whether rural 'Deep End' networking can lead to benefits in the way it has in urban communities. This will build on the study we undertook earlier this year in Mid Devon, 'GP Services, Testing the Deep End Rural Model', which can be read here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/health-and-wellbeing. Planning for the South Brent study is underway, which will be a collaboration between the local GP Surgery, the Old School Community Centre, Village Hall and other local partners.

We are also part of a VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) research consortium, which will look at the potential of a research-in-practice approach to understanding how community assets can be valued as important parts of an integrated care system, to reduce health inequalities. This quarter, we attended three CAN-DO leadership group meetings, bringing together people providing community assets - health and social care providers; VCSE partners; people with lived experience; commissioners; academics and public health experts to better understand the potential of a consortium approach and how we can work towards a shared data repository.

OUTCOMES

The consortium approach to this exciting new research project is well underway, as is planning for the DCT-led GP practice study.

IMPACT

Bringing together this very wide range of people and organisations in a research collaborative will bring a richness and diversity to the outcomes and learnings of the project, which aims to reduce health inequalities.

OTHER STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS AROUND HEALTH INEQUALITIES

As well as through delivering our projects, we also work towards tackling rural health inequalities through providing a 'rural' voice at a strategic level. This quarter we...

... Attended an ICS (integrated care system) Healthy Devon Learning Labs - System Mapping Workshop in September.

...Spoke at the inaugural wider Torbay, Plymouth and Torbay VCSE Assembly meeting about the Assembly's Health Inequalities Specialist Hub and its work so far.



STRATEGIC AIM

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



2 new Community Emergency Plans have been completed

£71.53k social value

Supported 19 community groups with Community Emergency Planning and resilience advice



Engaged with 14 Parish Councillors and Clerks about nature-based community flood resilience measures



£1,712

Community Emergency grants awarded to community groups

81 responses to Community Fridges surveys analysed



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES WITH FLOOD RESILIENCE



Devon Resilience Innovation Programme (DRIP), funded

by DEFRA, is a collaborative partnership managed by Devon County Council which is designed to help communities in rapid response catchments become more resilient to flooding. DCT's primary role is around engagement with key stakeholders, which is key to the project's pilots that are designed through community engagement and discussion wherever possible. The aim is that communities will feel a sense of ownership of their nature-based solutions and the pilots are trying to ascertain what combination of nature-based solutions

works in different river catchments.

Community engagement has been a priority during this quarter. Pilot project teams have attended village events to discuss the DRIP project and what it means for that community. DCT has engaged with 14 Parish Councillors and Clerks to discuss their understanding of the project and the flood solutions in their area.

<https://tinyurl.com/2p87uud5>

OUTCOMES

Communities and Parish Councils are better informed about nature-based flood resilience.

IMPACT

Communities will be more aware of and resilient to flooding.

COMMUNITY FRIDGES

DCT is working in partnership with Devon County Council as the independent evaluator for the Devon National Lottery Community Fund Food Rescue project.

DCT has been monitoring the activities of two community fridges this quarter - Exeter Central Library and Okehampton (Ockment Community Centre), analysing the data, including 82 survey responses, and developing a report. Along with survey data, we used 'Most Significant Change' methodology which makes use of conversation to draw out the experiences of individual fridge users to complement the quantitative data.

Towards the end of the quarter we begun monitoring a third fridge, Exeter St Thomas Library.

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



“

The fridge is like a free food bank, free food and free of stigma. It's wonderful, as well as feeding us it saves food from being thrown out. Having the fridge at the library is great as the bus stop is nearby.”

OUTCOMES

Quantitative and qualitative data has been analysed and presented to the Community Fridges Team.

IMPACT

Successful community fridges will reduce food wastage.



DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM



Managed by DCT, Devon Community Resilience Forum, DCT 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.

This quarter, we engaged with 13 rural communities around emergency planning and provided direct support to 19 community emergency planning groups, with two new plans having been completed.

Resilience grants to a value of £1,712, to fund equipment such as walkie talkies, PPE and signage to be deployed in the event of an emergency.

Looking forward, DCT has been commissioned by the Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to co-design and facilitate a Devon Whole of Society (WSR) Engagement Event early in 2024, for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, community and local businesses. We are working with a cross sector planning steering group which will take place.

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

OUTCOMES

19 community resilience groups are better resourced and have greater knowledge to progress their Emergency Plans.

IMPACT

People, businesses and homes and the natural landscape will be better protected from emergencies, such as flooding.



Herbythyme, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

OTHER RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITY IN Q2...

...We attended a Board meeting of the Devon Local Nature Partnership and explored the Bovey Valley with Nathan Robinson, East Dartmoor Landscape Recovery Area Development Officer to find out about the amazing work of the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

...We attended two NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) National VCSE Emergency Partnership meetings, as one of two South West Sector Leads. The Partnership aims to promote a more coordinated response amongst the voluntary and community sector when responding to an emergency.

<https://navca.org.uk/emergencies-partnership-1>

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



49 contacts with village halls to support them with specialist advice, including **11** pieces of funding advice

£40.99k
social value



Recorded **5** community housing stories to contribute to Tavistock Neighbourhood Development Plan and supported **2** other communities with their Plans



Gave **2,296** people in **2** parishes the opportunity to contribute to surveys about local housing need

Listened to the experiences of **27** VCSE organisations in East Devon at **4** events



35 village hall audits undertaken during Q1 (293 to date)



31,667 litres of oil ordered by members of the Devon Oil Collective

EAST DEVON VCSE SUPPORT SERVICE

DCT is managing a three-year contract from East Devon District Council to deliver a programme of VCSE capacity-building in East Devon. The service is designed to work in close collaboration with VCSE groups in the district; reviewing needs, providing training and fundraising support, and developing new ways of working on and influencing district-wide policy and service development.



During July and August we facilitated four summer drop-in events in East Devon (Axminster, Exmouth, Honiton, Sidmouth) which gave our team the opportunity to meet and talk with people in the area about what they need and want most from this new service. Some great conversations took place with four key action areas having been identified: financial sustainability, volunteering, business administration and making connections.

In addition to the listening events, we have attended 10 network events across East Devon and have responded to 11 enquiries, which have ranged from support with establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) to exploring a critical friend role for a consortium, signposting to relevant training and more.

As we enter the next quarter we are establishing a programme of events, both online and in person across the district, and developing our co-design approach.

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

OUTCOMES

East Devon VCSE organisations have received advice, support and the opportunity to contribute to the design of their new support service.

IMPACT

The service will address the things that matter most to the VCSE organisations, and will be co-designed to create maximum impact to the organisations themselves and their communities.



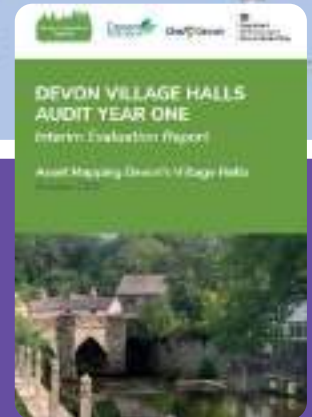
This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

VILLAGE HALLS COMMUNITY ASSET MAP: 293 HALLS

Thanks to funding from DEFRA and One Devon NHS, we have audited another 35 halls during Q2, bringing the total to 293 so far. This is 83% of our total goal of auditing 350 halls.

All of these face-to-face audits are contributing to a first-of-its-kind Devon Village Halls Community Asset Map, which maps the spaces and facilities on offer at all the halls, as well as recording the successes, challenges, aspirations and needs of the committees who are working hard to meet the needs of their rural communities.

During Q2 we developed an End of Year One report on our findings, available here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/village-halls-and-community-buildings and are working with our partners at each District Council in Devon to produce a bespoke report for their area.



OUTCOMES

293 halls have contributed evidence to the Community Asset Map and the latest report, which has been widely shared.

IMPACT

The evidence from the audit may be used to develop support programmes and potentially attract funding for Devon's Village Halls.

ONGOING COMMUNITY BUILDING SUPPORT

During Q2, the Village Halls and Community Buildings Advice Team continued to support village halls and community buildings, providing advice to 49 halls.

We were delighted to present certificates completers of our 'Enterprising Halls' business support programme, which took place earlier in the year as part of our New Start Devon programme (see front cover photo).

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS NETWORK

In September, the first meeting for South Hams Village Halls and Community Buildings to form a network was set up and co-facilitated by DCT at South Pool Village Hall. It was attended by 16 people from nine halls.

The nature of rural Village Halls means they rarely get the opportunity to meet up to discuss common issues or share good practice. Attendees at this initial meeting were all in favour of forming a network to enable peer support.

CASE STUDY

OUTCOMES

49 halls have been equipped with advice and a community buildings network is being formed.

IMPACT

The committees are enabled to run their buildings successfully and compliantly.



“ We felt a bit on our own; it's great gathering together to share the stories and learn from each other. Very useful!**”**

COMMUNITY HOUSING STORIES FROM TAVISTOCK

Thanks to DEFRA and Devon Community Housing Hub funding, in August DCT began working with Tavistock Town Council with the aim of gathering 10 housing stories from individuals who are or have tried to buy or rent a home in Tavistock. These stories will showcase the difficulties people find with trying to access housing in a market town, and provide potential solutions.

This is part of the Tavistock Neighbourhood Development Plan that DCT has been supporting Tavistock Town Council with.

We have so far recorded five stories, gathered through reaching out into the community through community events, emails, social media and attendance at key locations including the Pannier Market and the library.



OUTCOMES

Five stories have been gathered so far, demonstrating the challenges people face when accessing local housing.

IMPACT

People feel listened to as they have the opportunity to share their experiences, while also providing rich evidence and potential solutions that inform the Neighbourhood Plan for Tavistock.

DEVON COMMUNITY HOUSING HUB



As facilitators of the Devon Community Housing Hub (DCHH), a key part of our role is facilitating Housing Needs Surveys, three of which were underway in Morthoe, Woodbury, and Lynton and Lynmouth. The latter two, posted during Q2, were sent to a total of 2,296 households.

DCT and DCHH also worked on a proposal for Rural Housing Enablement funding from DEFRA, administered through Action With Communities in Rural England (ACRE). The funding aims to expand the work of the DCHH and provide more widespread support services to communities seeking to develop affordable rural housing. We hope to report on this further in Q3. www.devonhousinghub.org



OUTCOMES

Three communities have the opportunity to have their say on the level of housing need for local people.

IMPACT

Having a rigorous assessment of housing in their area will allow these communities to move forward with providing affordable housing for local people where a need is proven.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

DCT gave a workshop on strategic planning processes for parish and town councils at the DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils) conference on the 27th September. We welcomed 21 attendees to the workshop, along with other visitors to our exhibition stand where we were able to give additional support to delegates.



OUTCOMES

A template parish strategic priorities plan was created for parishes to work from.

IMPACT

Parishes understand the strategic planning process and are able to work on their own strategic plans following the workshop.

“Just wanted to say a big thank you for speaking at our conference. Your experience and insight greatly enriched the event. It resonated with the audience and I heard several positive anecdotes appreciating your contribution.” Cara Stobart, County Officer, DALC

MORE IN Q3...

DCT began working on some new projects towards the end of Q2, more of which can be reported on next time:

COMMUNITY ‘LOG BANK’ EVALUATION

Axewoods Co-operative Community Support project is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation which undertakes a range of Woodland Management activities in East Devon, to both private, public and charitable woodland owners in return for the felled timber, which it makes available as a ‘log bank’ for members of the community facing fuel poverty. It also provides timber and services to other VCSEs for community projects.

We are partnering with the Co-operative to provide support and to evaluate the project over a three year period. During Q3 we began to support them to set how to

measure their impact through a Theory of Change framework .

EXMINSTER AND KENN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLANS

DCT is supporting Exminster Parish Council and Kenn Parish Council with the planning process for community surveys. The evidence from these surveys will be used to inform their Neighbourhood Development Plans and will include some housing needs questions for individuals in the household. The survey designs are in their initial phase, with more to report on Q3.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP IN TOTNES

We worked with Totnes Town Council to plan a strategic workshop for Town Councillors that will help them set their community priorities. The workshop itself was set for 4th October.

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



Engaged with **7** learning providers to gather and analyse data from SMART SKILLS training programme

£95.75k
social value



5 evaluation meetings facilitated with partners to evaluate Experience Works programme, which supported **252** young people towards their journey to access employment



264 members of Devon Social Enterprise Network



2 Energy Champions trained to give domestic energy saving advice to households and community groups

EVALUATING THE SMART SKILLS PROGRAMME



DCT is the evaluation partner for the CSW (Careers South West) Group SMART SKILLS project, which offers fully funded training to businesses in Devon to help them upskill their workforce, thanks to £3.5million of funding from the European Social Fund (ESF).

DCT has engaged with the CSW Group, Group and six local skills agency delivery partners to retrieve data from their training initiatives, which were included in an interim report, a final updated version of which was published in September and can be read here: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/supporting-enterprise-and-business

OUTCOMES

A comprehensive interim report was produced, including data from seven key delivery partners.

IMPACT

The learnings from the report will inform this and future programmes, which upskill Devon's workforce, with a positive impact on individual careers and business outcomes.

EXPERIENCE WORKS

Experience Works, which was funded by the European Social Fund, supported young people aged 16 – 24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming so. The lead partner was Petroc College, with DCT being the support and evaluation partner.

Delivery of the programme finished in July, and this quarter, DCT liaised with local delivery providers to evaluate the impact the programme has made between January 2021 and September 2023; with five evaluation meetings having been facilitated with programme partners.

A notable learning from the report is that the experience of the pandemic demonstrated the importance of so-called 'soft' skills in preparing young people for the world of work. Many people missed out on the chance to explore the world with their peers at a formative time in their lives and it had left these soft skills underdeveloped, meaning they could be either unable to engage or did so in inappropriate ways.



OUTCOMES

A detailed report based on Theory of Change methodology is being developed.

IMPACT

The report findings, which are due for publication in November, will inform future skills learning provision in Devon.

“*I like that the support was shaped around me and that Sarah really cared, I have done more with the help than I thought I could.*”
Experience Works participant



ENERGY OUTREACH PROJECT

Once again, DCT is undertaking an energy advice programme this autumn and winter, this time through the Energy Outreach Project.

During Q2, two DCT staff members have been trained as Energy Champions, who can make presentations to groups and give tailored advice to individuals and households to help them reduce their energy output and manage their energy bills in light of the Cost of Living Crisis.

Two community energy saving events were arranged during Q2 (to take place in Q3), while marketing materials were shared across Devon, with a particular focus on Town and Parish Councils, encouraging enquiries from rural parishes for advice. We will be able to report on the impact of these events in the Q3 report. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project.

FREE Energy Advice Workshops
Friday 24th November,
10-11:30am & 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Exmouth Library, 40 Exeter Rd, Exmouth, EX8 1PS

Come along for FREE workshops in the morning and afternoon for advice on how to reduce your energy use and manage your bills during the cost of living crisis. We have advice on topics such as:

- Accessing financial support
- Understanding fuel poverty
- The energy market and energy costs
- How to use energy effectively in the home
- Keeping warm
- Supplier services for vulnerable customers
- Smart meters
- Devon Oil Collective
- Green energy

More...

Tele: 01392 248919 Email: anderson.jones@devoncommunities.org.uk
<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project>

Are you worried about your energy bills?

We offer 1-2-1 help for individuals or households to look at specific ways you can mitigate against the impact of energy costs, with advice on:

- Accessing financial or wellbeing support
- Understanding fuel poverty
- The energy market and energy costs
- How to use energy effectively in the home
- Keeping warm
- Supplier services for vulnerable customers
- Smart meters
- Devon Oil Collective
- Green energy

For a confidential chat, contact Martin Rich at:
Tele: 01392 248919 or 07984 001542 Email: martin@devoncommunities.org.uk
<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/energy-outreach-project>

citizens advice

Devon Communities Together

STRATEGIC AIM

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

56 people came along to our 11 training, learning and networking events



£253.66k social value



Extended the contracts of 7 Community Development Officers and 2 Project Managers to enable continuing delivery of current projects



Supported 1 meeting of the Torbay, Plymouth and Devon VCSE Assembly, attended by 52 VCSE organisations, and 2 meetings of the Assembly's Executive Group

Attended 3 Summer agricultural shows, in Totnes, Holsworthy and Honiton, engaging with 327 people





ACCESSIBLE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

During Q2, we facilitated 11 learning, training or networking sessions, attracting 56 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.5), and a strategic workshop for Totnes Town Councillors (pg.17).

We also continued to upskill our staff, for example our marketing team undertaking training on creating more accessible content in print and online, to ensure everybody can access our content and publications. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/courses

OUTCOMES

56 people can use their newly acquired knowledge and skills to positively impact their organisations, workplaces and communities.

IMPACT

Projects and organisations are improved, for the benefits of the communities they operate in.

TOTNES, HOLSORTHY AND HONITON SUMMER SHOWS

We hosted stands at the Totnes, Holsworthy and Honiton 2023 shows, providing activities including making bird feeders and creating 'ideal communities' using crafts and children's toys.

They were a great opportunity to reach into our rural communities and engage with the public. 20 in-depth engagements and 327 total contacts with people, for example to share our LOVE Devon magazine.



OUTCOMES

We raised awareness of DCT within rural communities, engaging in depth with 20 people across the three locations.

IMPACT

People are better informed about where to access support.



DEVON, PLYMOUTH AND TORBAY VCSE ASSEMBLY

DCT has been appointed to provide operational management and communications support to the Torbay, Plymouth and Devon VCSE Assembly, which brings together independent charities, social enterprises and community-led organisations across Torbay, Plymouth and Devon. The Assembly aims to support, complement and add value to local VCSE networks and partnerships.

During Q2, we worked with the Independent Chair to promote and support the inaugural Wider Assembly Meeting, which was attended by 52 VCSE organisations. We also supported two Executive Group meetings and helped to establish processes around supporting VCSE representatives at strategic events and maintaining regular communications with the sector, issuing 11 communications to VCSE organisations across Devon on behalf of the Assembly. We also collaborated with the Chair and Executive Group to set up some foundational documents, including an elevator pitch and a template presentation.

OUTCOMES

52 VCSE organisations came together in the first wider meeting of the Torbay, Plymouth and Devon VCSE Assembly, with monthly meetings planned going forward, which DCT will continue to support.

IMPACT

Being a part of the Assembly allows DCT to partake in collaborative discussions and work streams with varied VCSE organisations, which gives us a fantastic opportunity to listen to and respond to the needs of our communities, as well as contribute to strategic conversations.



CHARITY BREAKFAST

We were pleased to attend the Lord Lieutenant's Charity Breakfast Event in September, attended by the Duchess of Edinburgh. It was a great opportunity to meet many of our voluntary sector colleagues here in Devon. You can read more about this inspiring event here: www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/gallery/duchess-edinburgh-celebrates-devons-charity-8770793

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS...

