



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

PREPARED BY
CARELLA DAVIES



MISSION STATEMENT



Volunteer Centre
Daventry

Daventry Volunteer Centre
The New Street Centre
13 New Street
Daventry
Northamptonshire
NN11 4BT

Tel: 01327 300614

Email: info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk

Website: www.daventryvolunteers.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 802879

Drop In times:

Monday- Friday

9.30am – to 1.00 pm.

Other times by appointment

Mission Statement

To act as a Local Infrastructure Organisation supporting the local voluntary and community sector

To actively promote volunteering for all and to enable individuals to use their skills to the best advantage of themselves and the local community.

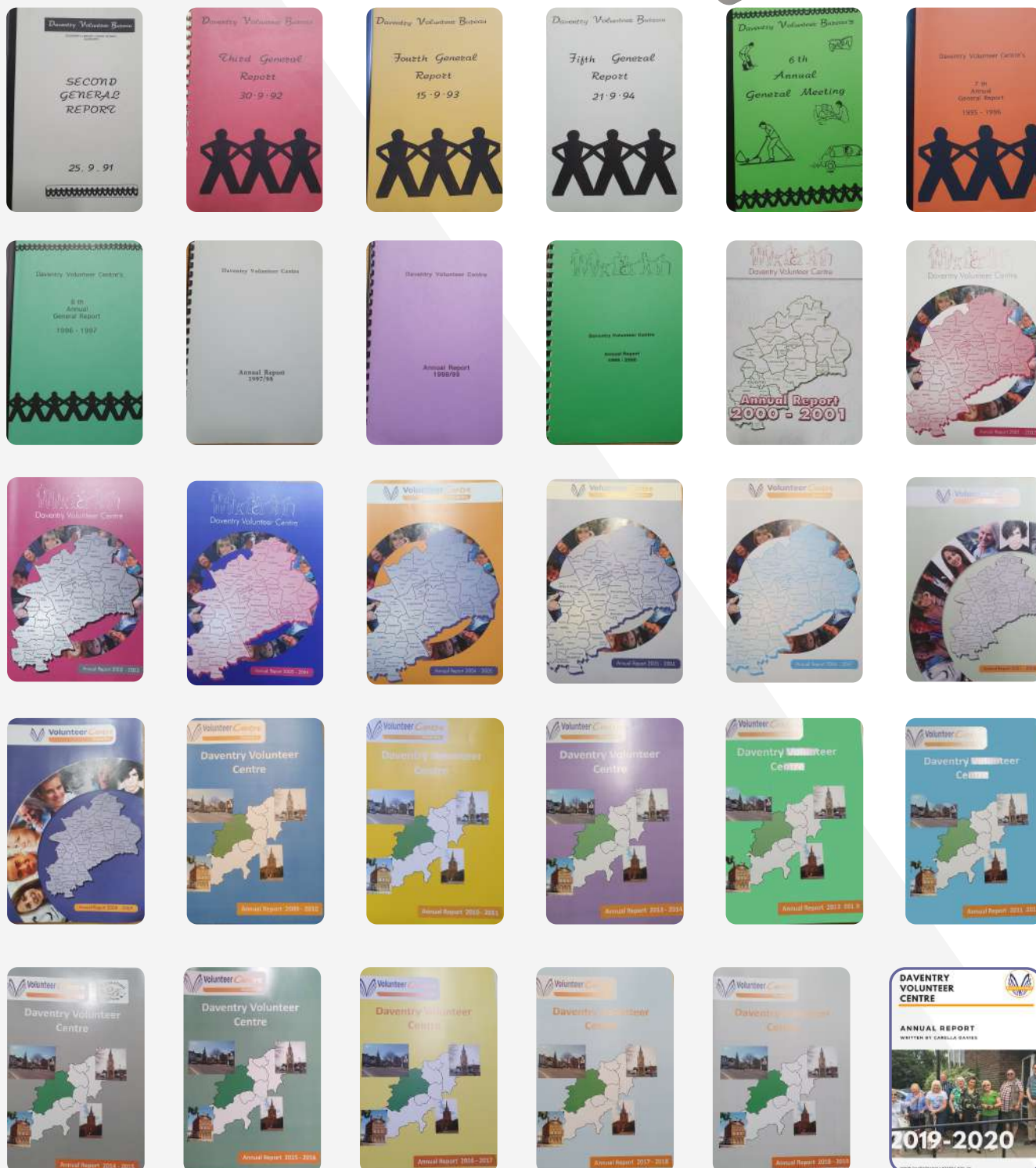
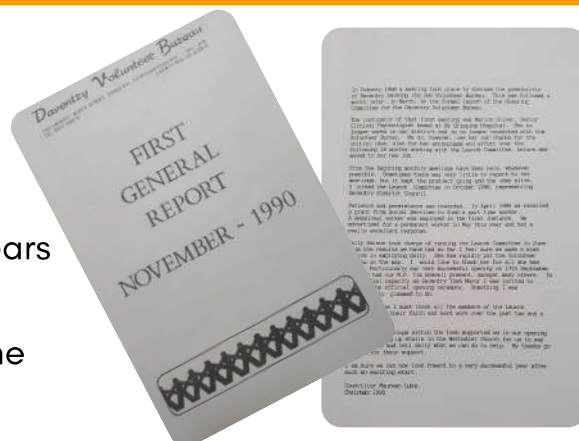
To operate effective direct services to meet local needs through volunteers.

To encourage good practice in the recruitment and support of volunteers.



30 YEARS OF AGM REPORTS

This year we are celebrating 30 years of supporting Volunteering in the Daventry District





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Organisations Volunteers Referred to



EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Daventry Volunteer Centre is committed to ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion in the treatment of staff, volunteers, Trustees, and beneficiaries in terms of employment and access to services, and to provide guidance on anti-discriminatory practice.

Our policy applies to employees directly employed by DVC, to workers employed via agencies, contractors in terms of employment, Trustees, volunteers and beneficiaries in terms of service provision. The policy applies specifically to discrimination and equality of opportunity in respect of 'protected characteristics' as defined in the Equalities Act 2010:

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Sex
- Religion or cultural beliefs
- Gender reassignment
- Marital status and civil partnership
- Sexual orientation
- Pregnancy and maternity

Diversity Statement

Daventry Volunteer Centre is a small independent charity. Our mission statement is based on a fundamental belief in the value of diversity in our community, and the importance of ensuring equality of opportunity in all areas of our work. We recognise that people with diverse cultures and perspectives bring fresh ideas and perceptions that benefit our organisation, and all of its stakeholders.

We are committed to developing and maintaining an organisation in which differing ideas, abilities, backgrounds and needs are fostered and valued, and where those with diverse experiences are able to participate and contribute. We recognise that this will enhance our effectiveness in carrying out our work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank those who financially supported the Volunteer Centre during 2020/ 2021 and made our work possible

During this financial year funding was received from:

National Lottery Community Fund
Commsortia/Big Lottery/European Social Fund
Davertry District Council
Northamptonshire Community Foundation
DEFRA
South Northants Council
Northamptonshire Sport
Groundwork – Tesco Bags of Help/Comic Relief
Viridor
Charities Trust Ecclesiastes
Just Giving
Corby Borough Council
Silverstone DABS Sponsor

We also received a number of donations from fund-raising activities organised by volunteers, supporters, and staff.



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson

Ms Derval O'Brien

Secretary

Ms C Davies

Treasurer

Mr Joshua Toms

Committee Members

Dave Berry – Citizens Advice Daventry & District Agency Representative

Stephen Cave – Independent Member

Annette Dunn – Independent Member

John Hawkes – Independent Member

Councillor Alan Hills – DDC Advisory Member

John Lee – Volunteer representative

Derval O'Brien – Independent Member

Joshua Toms – Independent Member 13/11/20

Pam Tomalin – Northamptonshire Dyslexia Assn. Agency Representative

Accountants

Cottons
Chartered Accountants
The Stables, Church Walk,
Daventry, Northants
NN11 4BL

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
High Street
Daventry Northants
NN11 4HU



Derval O'Brien
Chair of Trustees

CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Management Committee of Daventry Volunteer Centre (DVC), I am pleased to report on our achievements and activity for the financial year 2020/2021. What an extraordinary year it has been for DVC, and what an amazing effort from staff and volunteers in supporting the local community throughout the pandemic.

During the year, DVC actively managed their existing projects and adjusted them accordingly within the COVID guidelines which enabled continued delivery. In addition to these projects, DVC played a key role in the Northamptonshire resilience hub, in providing support to the wider community throughout the pandemic.

The Happy at Home project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund in collaboration with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire, continued to deliver services, albeit with COVID adjustments in place. Led by Nicola, the team has continued to support older and vulnerable people across Daventry, South Northants and Northampton.

Continued funding from Daventry District Council has enabled DVC to provide infrastructure support for local groups, and thus strengthening the sector overall across Daventry. The support is enhanced through the Daventry VCSE Forum, regular network meetings and a regular newsletter.

The Volunteer Centre's services have been positively developed through the addition of the Milk&You project (previously called the Breastfeeding Peer Support project), which supports new Mum's and their babies not just with feeding issues, but also on an emotional, social, mental and physical level. The project has been highly successful in the Daventry and Towcester areas, and has now been expanded with a pilot in Corby.

The BBO (Building Better Opportunities) project has been doing an excellent job of helping people furthest from the job market to undertake volunteering roles, and gain the skills, tools, and confidence, to apply for paid jobs or further training.

Whilst volunteering and volunteer brokerage is central to the work of DVC, the pandemic brought with it extra pressures in co-ordinating the high volume of individuals wanting to volunteer their time during the lockdown periods. DVC staff worked hard to ensure the additional volunteers were managed and well supported.

Of course, not only did the pandemic response require people power, it required the resources to do so. I would like to thank the National Lottery Community Fund, Daventry District Council, South Northants Council, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, DEFRA, NSport, and Groundwork Tesco Bags of Help, who made additional funding available throughout the year.

The staff and volunteers at DVC have worked tremendously hard this year, and given so much of their time, and energy, as well as knowledge and experience in supporting the resilience hub and the community. On behalf of the management Committee I would like to thank you all for your outstanding work and commitment.



Carella Davies
CEO

CEO'S REPORT

This year is our opportunity to celebrate Daventry Volunteer Centre's 30th Anniversary which happened last year, but unfortunately, we were unable to celebrate our work with volunteers who are supporting the most disadvantaged people in our local community, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The pandemic has had, and continues to have, an enormous impact on the services provided by Daventry Volunteer Centre for the financial year April 2020 to March 2021, on our staff, on our teams of volunteers, and on our beneficiaries.

Our staff team – Nicola, Sharon, Amanda, Chris, Angelina, Michelle and Bethany, together with volunteers re-deployed from our DVC projects, and new volunteers recruited specifically to help with the pandemic, have enabled us to provide emergency shopping, prescriptions, medical supplies, telephone befriending, transport to hospital appointments, and numerous other services, to isolated elderly, and clinically extremely vulnerable people in our local community, from day 1 of COVID-19.

We quickly discovered that we were one of a very few organisations in the Daventry District still operating during the pandemic, which meant that throughout the year we received thousands of phone calls asking for help and advice from people who didn't know where else to go to, and organisations needing support, and our workload increased dramatically. We worked closely with the Northamptonshire Resilience Hub as soon as it was up and running, and liaised daily with the local councils to ensure the most vulnerable in Daventry and South Northamptonshire received the support they needed.





CEO'S REPORT

The DVC staff team did a truly extraordinary job, working flexibly to increase and adapt their usual work roles in an ever-changing environment, to answer the phones 7 days a week, train and re-deploy project volunteers, co-ordinate and support 50 new volunteers to deliver services to over 3000 isolated individuals, and continue to support those involved with the DVC projects using Zoom and 1-1 meetings outside in the park etc. throughout the lockdowns. We also kept in touch by phone and virtually with those volunteers who could not be redeployed to our emergency services.

The staff team also ensured that the New Street Centre building was ready to be re-opened at the end of each lockdown, with all the COVID protocols, PPE requirements, cleaning, and adaptations closely adhered to. It has been a tremendous amount of work for us all and could not have been achieved without the DVC staff team's willingness to going the extra mile.

It was wonderful to receive wider community recognition for all our efforts throughout a difficult year. MP Chris Heaton-Harris visited DVC in order to give his personal thanks to our COVID Response volunteers, we received the High Sheriff of Northamptonshire Award from Paul Parsons for our outstanding contribution to the local community, and Nicola and Bethany received the Rose of Northamptonshire Award for their outstanding contribution to Northamptonshire's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition Nicola received the Community Champions Award from Northamptonshire ACRE.

We have been very thankful to our funders – the National Community Lottery, Northamptonshire Community Foundation, Daventry District and South Northamptonshire councils, NSport and DEFRA, for their funding which enabled us to increase part-time staff hours, pay for volunteer travel expenses and emergency food supplies, and carry out all the additional COVID support work.





**350 VCS
Groups
Supported**

VCSE GROUP SUPPORT:

Throughout the year over 350 VCSE organisations have been supported with capacity building information and advice via weekly newsletters and e-bulletins, and 1-1 support, and during the pandemic lockdowns, we helped organisations with latest COVID advice. We continue to promote partnership work, and have been able to put people in touch with each other to help deliver COVID support, and have used virtual meetings (Zoom) to maintain communication with colleagues, attend strategic meetings, and run the VCSE Forum and the Northamptonshire 2021 Funding Fair.

DVC have hosted the Daventry VCSE Forum since 2002 - it is an important forum for networking, collaboration, idea and initiative sharing, training, and fostering a stronger representative voice for local not for profit groups. In October 2020, due to COVID restrictions, we decided to change the forum to a virtual meeting, which has been very successful. The Forum is regularly attended by around 25 different groups including funders and statutory organisations, and being able to meet virtually has increased the number of organisations being able to attend.

As part of the NDFWN partnership (Northamptonshire Development and Funding Advice Workers Network) Funding Fair steering group, I helped organise and deliver the virtual countywide Funding Fair 2021 over 3 days in June, following on from our first virtual Fair in 2020. It was attended by 20 different Funders offering 24 sessions. 232 people registered to attend the Fair, and 608 sessions were attended. Our survey revealed the 100% of attendees wished to attend our next Funding Fair.

LRF

**COVID 19
PRESS RELEASE**

**Northamptonshire
Local Resilience Forum**

**DVC were part of the LRF
keeping other
organisations informed of
the latest Information**



VOLUNTEER BROKERAGE:

DVC is the NCVO accredited Volunteer Centre for the Daventry District, and we actively promote volunteering for all in the local community. We believe that community action and volunteering breaks down barriers and contributes to social inclusion, a sense of belonging, and a better way of life for all local communities. Our work encourages the development of volunteering for everyone, focusing on promoting and developing good practice with VCSE groups in supporting their volunteers, and opening up the range and scope of available volunteering opportunities for local people to become engaged in.

With over 30 years of Volunteer Bureau experience behind us, we are experts at recruiting and supporting volunteers, developing new opportunities for volunteer placements with VCSE groups, encouraging good practice and advising on involving volunteers with VCSE organisations, and developing our own projects using volunteers to help meet local need. We were perfectly placed to co-ordinate the incredible response from local people offering volunteer help during the pandemic.



Despite the COVID restrictions our brokerage service received a total of **307** volunteering enquiries, carried out 1-1 interviews with 101 volunteers, and referred **232** individuals to **39** different not-for-profit organisations, including our own DVC projects, which resulted in **203** confirmed placements.

203 Volunteer Placements

307

Answered Volunteer Enquiries

101

Volunteer 1:1 Interviews



PARTNERSHIP WORK:



Partnership work remains crucial for DVC, in order to share resources, avoid duplication of services, and keep abreast of, and input to, the rapidly changing environment that we find ourselves in. Our partnerships with Daventry District Council, South Northants Council, and the Northamptonshire Resilience Forum have enabled us to help shape and deliver Northamptonshire's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are currently working closely with the New Street Centre and Cummins Engineering to support our New Street Café work, and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN), our partner for the Happy at Home project.

We have been building up our partnership work with the local Social Prescribers, and set up a Social Prescribers Forum in October 2020, which meets regularly to help support, integrate and link in their work in our community with the local VCSE organisations.

We continue to seek new, mutually beneficial ways of working and sharing resources, in order to shape our future services.



THE DVC PROJECTS:



Throughout the year, and despite COVID-19 restrictions, all of our projects have continued to operate: Happy@Home, BBO (Building Better Opportunities), Milk&You, COVID-19 Support, New Street Café, Daventry Timebank, Clean & Green.



Full reports from the project co-ordinators are included, which will outline the incredible amount of work that has been undertaken using the help of volunteer teams, in supporting our local community and providing emergency services during the pandemic.



Over many years of running successful projects that fill the gaps in provision for some of the most disadvantaged people in our community, we have developed a number of projects that remain essential in enabling us to deliver those vital services, and which fit together to provide a holistic approach to improving the health and well-being of local people. Regular surveys, consultations and Case Studies inform us of the positive outcomes that our project services have on the lives of local people, identify where there are any gaps in provision, and help us adapt our services to meet the needs expressed by our beneficiaries.



Where we have been unable to find on-going funding for a project, we continue to support the service and the volunteers involved in a very reduced way, in order to maintain the project until we are able to source further funding. Both the Timebank and Clean & Green projects have been maintained in this way over the last year.



Currently the Timebank has 43 active members, many with mental health issues, who engage in social activities and exchanging of skills, to offer mutual support.



The Clean & Green project has 5 members with high level extra support needs who have been supported throughout the year, and all through the pandemic, to do volunteer litter picking in the neighbourhood.

Please see over for the full project reports.

CASE STUDY:

CASE STUDY



C L E A N & G R E E N - V O L U N T E E R

Clean and Green Project Daventry

GENERAL INFORMATION

M joined our Clean and Green project when he was 20. He has Dyspraxia and, when he joined us, was having difficulties with anxiety, asthma and also suffering from panic attacks, which made it impossible for him to hold down paid employment.

We suggested he volunteered on Clean and Green where we can provide significant one-to-one support. We first helped him identify objectives for our support, which included how to express his feelings and how to notice and manage his panic attacks, so he could control them before they became overwhelming. M also wanted to learn better life skills, including budgeting and shopping, which would help him become more independent. All are things we can provide on our supported volunteering projects.

M volunteered on Clean and Green twice a week for five months, learning the discipline of turning up on time every day and building friendships with other team members, which he had previously found hard. At first, he found the walking very difficult, as he had spent so little time exercising. He had a number of panic attacks in the early days, but gradually, as his fitness improved, he found it easier and his attacks subsided.

M grew in confidence significantly. He would look forward to his volunteering and to meeting his new friends, something he would never have done previously. Eventually, with our help and coaching, including some additional support provided through our other projects, he managed to secure an apprenticeship for a job at Northampton College.

We are delighted to report that M's apprenticeship has now become a paid role.

QUOTE:

"[volunteering] gave me a purpose and made me feel as though I was making a difference. The exercise was good, and I made new friends. It has given me the confidence to move on to my apprenticeship."

GET IN TOUCH

Email: info@daventryvolunteers.org.uk

Tel: 01327 300614

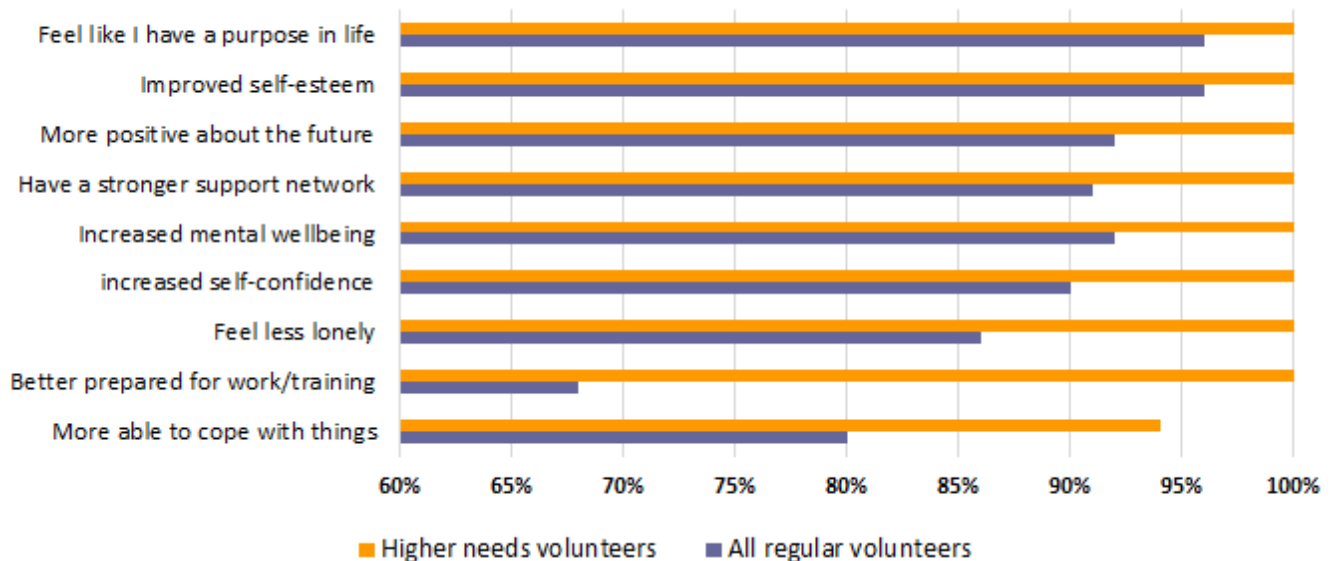
Address: The Daventry Time Bank, The New Street Centre, 13 New Street, Daventry NN11 4BT



THE DVC PROJECTS:

Our most recent feedback surveys show the increase in health and well-being reported by our beneficiaries, as a result of our project interventions:

Outcomes reported by DVC's project volunteers - evaluation Jan' 2021



MP Chris Heaton-Harris thanking DVC's Covid Response Volunteers



THE SOCIAL VALUE OF DVC PROJECTS:

In order for the impact of volunteering in the local community to be fully appreciated, it is increasingly important for organisations to be able to describe the difference that volunteering makes to volunteers themselves, project staff, the beneficiaries, and the local community.

At DVC we have calculated that the wider social value of volunteering activities that took place through our projects during 2020 is **£948,636**.

Some examples of how our social values for volunteering interventions are calculated include:

In 2020/21 DVC project volunteers gave **21,480** hours of volunteering time to the local community which can be valued at **£176,136** when costed using minimum wage of £8.20 per hour.



The total social value for the Happy at Home project has been calculated at a massive **£772,500** for example

20% of Elderly residents remain living independently due to H@H interventions so this means that
 $26 \text{ residents} \times £28,500 \text{ (average cost of residential care home p.a.)} = £741,000$

5% of 132 Elderly residents avoid Hip Fracture costs so this means $7 \text{ residents} \times £4,500 = £31,500$

The Happy@Home project volunteers enable isolated elderly people to remain living independently in their own homes for longer, well-being of both isolated elderly people and volunteer visitors is increased through their interaction, and the volunteer interventions (information and support) given to elderly residents helps them to avoid falls, hip fractures, and hospital admissions.

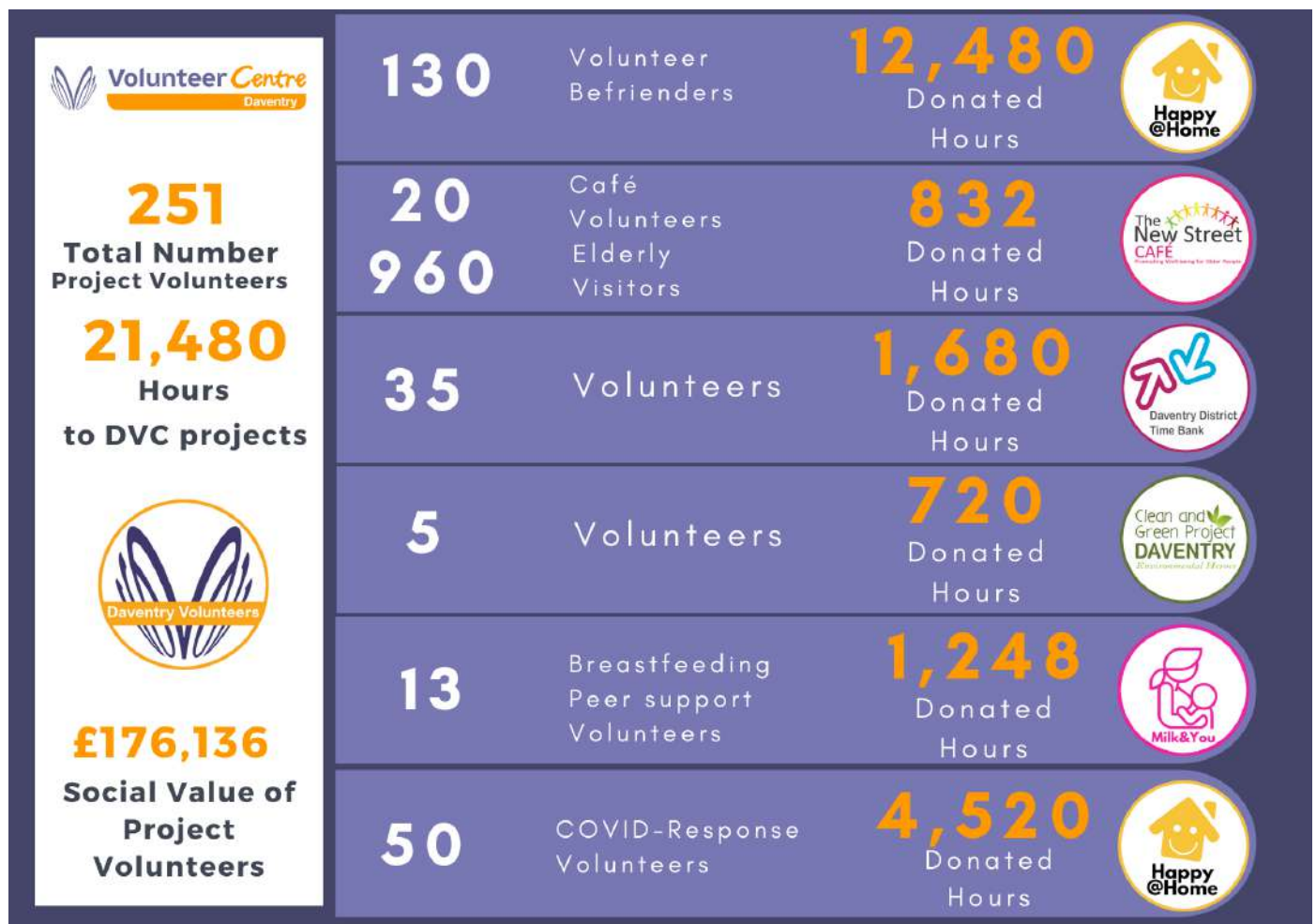
Total Added Value
almost

£1 million!



THE SOCIAL VALUE OF DVC PROJECTS:

At DVC we have calculated that the wider social value of volunteering activities that took place through our projects during 2020 is an amazing **£948,636**.



**DVC'S projects have a social value
of almost £1 Million**



THANK YOU ALL:

Our Volunteers are crucial to the work of DVC – without them we would not be able to run our projects and meet the needs of some of the most disadvantaged people in our community.

Around 192 regular volunteers gave up their time and energy every week to help us deliver befriending and social support to the local community, improving the health and well-being of all our beneficiaries, and improving community resilience. Overall our volunteers gave an amazing 21,480 hours of help! Thank you to all our volunteers – you have made a significant difference to the lives of the people you have supported, especially through the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to repeat my thanks to the DVC staff team – Nicola, Sharon, Amanda, Chris, Angelina, Michelle and Bethany, who co-ordinated and supported teams of volunteers to help with COVID-19 from day 1, and did a truly extraordinary job in ensuring that DVC was at the forefront in delivering local emergency services during the pandemic, whilst continuing to give on-going support to their existing project volunteers.

The team efforts at DVC are what enable us to deliver our services to the local community so effectively, and I thank them all for their support.

I would also like to thank the DVC Trustees for all their hard work throughout the year, in particular Derval our Chairman, and Joshua our Treasurer who are always on hand to offer their support. I really appreciate the amount of time and energy you have all put into the strategic management of our organisation, the belief you have in the importance of the work we are doing, and the support and encouragement you have given to me and to the DVC staff, particularly during the pandemic.

And finally a big “Thank you” once again to all our funders, for their financial support throughout the year, particularly with the COVID-19 relief work. We wouldn’t be here without your grants and donations, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a public “Thank you” to you, on behalf of the local community you help us to support.

Carella Davies
CEO



Nicola Toms
Project Manager

HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

What a difference a year can make. Happy@Home has seen a change in every part of its delivery. We have continued to run the project throughout the year. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on everyone, but especially those who were already feeling isolated and alone.

The COVID-19 restrictions meant that all our face to face contact stopped, and so did our social activities. From the very start of the first lockdown Happy@Home staff team got together to make sure that we could continue to support those that we already had registered with us.

It was vital that we adapted the way we delivered our project; we wrote a new Befriending Guidelines manual, and transferred all our existing befriender volunteers over to telephone befriending, ensuring that those who needed it, had a lifeline to the outside world.

We realised early on that our expertise and connections could be very useful to the wider community, and so we pulled together to offer our help wherever we could. Telephone calls for advice and support around befriending and managing volunteers came in not just from local organisations, but those as far away as Doncaster & Grantham, and North Devon, and from organisations such as other Befriending services as well as the Northamptonshire County Council & The British Red Cross.





HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

Our close connections with the community and doctor's surgeries soon generated requests for help from our local GP's and health professionals.

Our network of connections helped the whole community - We had a call from Cummins Engineering who had sent all their workers home, but wanted to offer their help to the community where they could.

One of their senior engineers had pooled together some of their staff with 3D printer access who were busy making face shields, and they wanted to know how they could get them to the Northampton General Hospital, so called us. When we called one of the local GP practices they begged for the shields for themselves, as PPE was in such short supply. Cummins were happy to supply the surgery with face shields, and by the afternoon we had had a call from another Daventry GP practice - Cummins volunteers not only supplied them with shields but they also installed Perspex screens in all the local surgeries.

Although Cummins were unable to provide us with Volunteers they pulled out all the stops to make sure that they were able to provide our most vulnerable residents with a Christmas Hamper. We gathered our volunteers together and delivered them ourselves.



Cummins Donated 60 Hampers



HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

The whole of DVC staff team joined together to work on our Covid-19 Response, supporting the local community and responding to their emerging needs. From our links with our local councils and GPs we were quickly approached by one of our local Pharmacies to see if we could deliver prescriptions for those who were shielding or vulnerable. Within a few days all the pharmacies in Daventry and many in the wider district and South Northants followed suit.

By the end of April, we had received over **1,000** phone calls and responded to over 600 requests for help. We recruited new volunteers who received new volunteering guidelines and appropriate PPE equipment.

It has been a huge learning curve for the whole project and the rest of the DVC team, and the experience has helped us to become closer than ever to our communities.

I would like to say a personal thank you to the DVC project workers Chris, Sharon, Angelina and Amanda who worked so tirelessly to help support the volunteers and vulnerable residents, and to Carella our CEO for her leadership and guidance in overseeing the COVID support work. As a team we were able to rise to all the challenges that the Pandemic has thrown at us, and none of the help and hope we have given to our community would have been possible without the DVC staff team's willingness to pull together, when many other organisations had closed their doors.

Nicola Toms Project Manager





HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

Volunteers

Volunteers are a key part of Happy@Home and this has never been truer than this year. Our befrienders were all very willing to move over to telephone befriending, and consistently found new ways to continue to support the elderly people they were visiting before the pandemic. They shopped and stood outside windows and sang. Their commitment to helping those most affected by the isolation resulting from the pandemic, has been overwhelming.

Our new Covid-19 response Volunteers have been outstanding. Their willingness to go out and help others in a time when most people were staying at home, has been key to our success in delivering support to the wider community. The volunteers have come from all walks of life and all ages - our youngest volunteers made trips to hospitals, our nimble motorbike volunteer was able to deliver prescriptions to our narrowboat residents and people living off the beaten track.

We have continued to receive volunteers from the business community too. Nationwide staff offered up their lunch times to do telephone "check in and chat" as well as delivering prescriptions locally.

After a zoom meeting with a local Scouts group they all agreed to write letters and cards for us to send to our shielding residents, letting them know that people were thinking of them. The residents who received these letters were delighted to receive news and kind words from the outside world. Many wrote back!

Many of our new volunteers were volunteering for the very first time whilst they were on furlough from their normal work, and I am pleased to say that some have been able to continue to support our project and DVC, even when though they have been back to full time work.



HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT



Supporting and valuing our volunteers has always been at the heart of our project and we have adapted to find new ways to acknowledge their contributions. We have created Facebook Groups, held socially distanced, thank you events, and hosted virtual get togethers via Zoom. All of these new ways of engaging with our volunteers will be continued in the future.

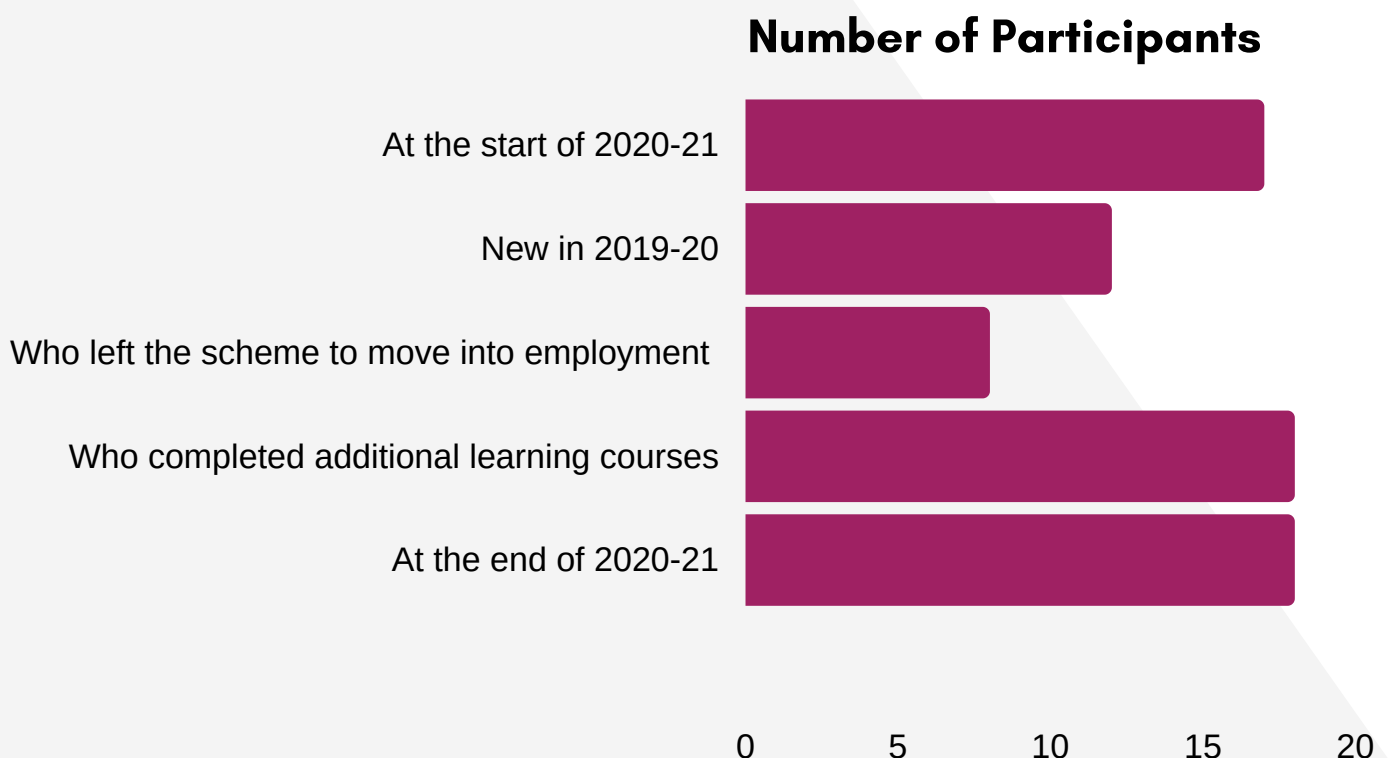
Strengthening Partnerships

Happy@Home was always at the heart of the Resilience Hub & DDC COVID-19 response. We were in daily and sometimes hourly contact, offering advice and delivering services, while helping to create the systems that we all used during lockdown.

There have been many positive things that have come out of this unprecedented period and our partnership work is probably the most significant. Our volunteers and community groups really have come together and adapted to find new ways of working and supporting each other.

We have worked with pharmacies who have never had to work with VCSE organisations before, helping and guiding them through new ways of working with volunteer deliveries and the ever-changing rules and regulations this pandemic has brought.





BBO PROJECT REPORT:

As restrictions ebbed and flowed, so did the focus of BBO work – moving quickly from health, wellbeing and welfare back to intensive employment support as more participants began stepping back outside. For some this allowed them to start their volunteer journey and I am especially pleased that BBO participants have gone on the volunteer across all of the projects here at DVC this year. This includes two participants who visit regularly still say they 'don't volunteer' proving that you can volunteer without even realising!

The project continues to grow and has increased in visibility amongst NHS Social Prescribers based in the district. The referrals from them, while varied, tend to be older people who have been affected by the pandemic, either through job losses, family break-up or exacerbation of financial issues in longer-term unemployed people. I see this as a vital link and a great area that BBO support can help and hope this only grows over the coming year.



Chris Kelly
BBO Project Coordinator



NEW STREET CAFÉ PROJECT REPORT:

Nicola Toms

This has been our most challenging year since we took over the management of the Café. It was with a heavy heart that we had to send our volunteers home and close our doors in March 2020.

We were concerned as many of our own Volunteers found themselves shielding and needing support themselves. Our customers were frightened and worried too, as the Café had been a place where they kept in touch with friends and socialised.

During all of the various lockdowns we continued to support our Volunteers and Customers with weekly "Check in and Chats" and offered extra support (shopping, prescriptions etc.) where needed.

We applied for various grants to help us with our ongoing costs for rent and the Management Fees and to help us with all the changes to signage, track and trace systems and training that needed to happen, from mask wearing, hand sanitizer stations being created, and one way entries in and out of the building.

With all the new measures in place and the volunteers trained in the new ways of operating, we briefly opened during the summer months. Although it was great to see some familiar faces, we were only able to open 3 mornings a week and we couldn't hold our community lunches.



640
Lunches delivered



NEW STREET CAFÉ PROJECT REPORT:

Nicola Toms

As we went into the third lockdown, and as it was looking like many people would all be facing a long Winter and Christmas alone, we decided that we needed to give our customers and wider community something to remind them that the Café was still there here for them, even though the building was closed.

We applied for some funding to deliver Christmas lunches on Christmas Day to those who would be on their own. Waitrose gave us chocolate treats to add to our Christmas Parcels and Daventry Slimming World customers donated gifts and hand written cards.

Later in the New Year we were able to cook our community lunches with the help of NCF funding, and volunteers delivered 40 lunches a week for 16 weeks. With the funding we were also able to create Winter Warmer packs full of advice about how to stay warm, and we distributed fingerless gloves knitted by volunteers from across the County.

***"The lunch was so tasty. I chatted with a lovely lady...
It was the highlight of my day. I can't wait until next week - L"***

***"The blanket in the wellbeing pack is great, it keeps me warm when I watch
countdown - T"***



WINTER WELL-BEING

As part of the Northamptonshire Community Foundation Winter Well-being Appeal, knitters from across the county have been making fingerless gloves just for you.

We want you to stay warm & well.

ENJOY!

CONTACT US

The New Street Café
The New Street Centre, 13 New Street
Daventry, NN11 4BT
Tel: 01527 300614



DAVENTRY AREA BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT PROJECT:

Michelle Santhi - Bethany Brown

We have continued to support the Breastfeeding Peer Support project which was previously known as the Healthy Young Daventry project and has been renamed Milk&You. With the help of council staff, we applied for funding from Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group and were successful with our bids, in total gaining £69,000! This means the newly named project can run for another 18 months!

Milk&You was decided upon by our staff and volunteers and voted for by mums. The name emphasises that although we support mothers to breastfeed, our service is not just about the milk mothers make and feed their baby with, but about them as women and mothers too! We support them on emotional, social, mental and physical level providing various support options.

Our website has been updated to reflect the amazing support we offer – still led by Bethany our Peer Support Coordinator. Given the affect COVID has had on many families, our project has not only helped to keep babies breastfed (reducing their risk of illness); bottle-fed babies receiving formula safely, and when parents were unable to afford it, provided a compliant and safe way of obtaining it, but also helped families in times of hardship. Milk&You has provided over 100 single donations of baby and children's items to parents in need, supported by our partnership with the Welton Baby Project reducing parental stress and ensuring parents were able to clothe and feed their families.





DAVENTRY AREA BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT PROJECT:

Michelle Santhi - Bethany Brown

As part of the funding agreement with the CCG, we were asked to provide infant feeding support to parents in Corby. This meant forming new partnerships with both Kettering and Northampton General Hospital's. To do this we employed a new Peer Support Coordinator (Welcome again Kayleigh!) to help run the service in Corby and Michelle made it her mission to get both hospitals on board! Success was gained and agreements with both NHS Trust's and their infant feeding leads have been established.

This is something that has never been achieved in the history of breastfeeding support in Northamptonshire, where all NHS Trusts and the Primary Care Network combine their knowledge and efforts to support families across the county, so we are thrilled at having this opportunity to work with them and NHFT. Kayleigh has already supported 7 mothers through their peer supporter training with NHFT and set up two events for World Breastfeeding Week, while Bethany continued to support our 12 volunteers in Daventry and Towcester, with the addition of two new peer supporters completing their training too!

We have been informed by Public Health that the county's breastfeeding rates have increased by 10% since the start of this project in November 2019. Again, something Northamptonshire has never seen before! So undeniably, the team and all our partners are relishing in this news and continue to support one another to increase rates further. So, to better our chances, we have formed a partnership with Northamptonshire Children's Trust and Strong Start to deliver peer support in ALL children's centres across the county while helping to achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly Status within the community. We believe we have yet had another brilliant year!

Michelle Santhi



ORGANISATIONS VOLUNTEERS REFERRED TO 2020-2021

Age UK Northamptonshire
Air Ambulance-Warwickshire & Northamptonshire -HQ (WNAA)
Alzheimers Society- Central and South East Midlands Locality
Assist Trauma
BARKS- Banbury Animal Rescue and Kindness Service
BHF - Charity Shop (British Heart Foundation)
Brixworth Pocket park
Canons Ashby House
Children Come First
Cooking Good
Coram Beanstalk
Daventry & District Guiding Association (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides)
Daventry Winter Night Shelter
Drayton Grange Community Centre.
DVC - Clean & Green Project
DVC - New Street Centre-cafe
DVC- BBO project
DVC- Daventry Volunteer Centre
DVC- Happy at Home Partnership
DVC- TIMEBANK Project - Daventry Volunteer centre
Food for Thought Daventry
Green Health
Health Works- Cooking Good Project
Homestart Daventry & South Northants
Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens
Longlands Specialist Care Centre
Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Service: Daventry Library
Reach for Health
RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) Northants Branch
Salvation Army Charity Shop
Schoolreaders
South Northants Council
Sulgrave Manor House Trust
Tall Trees Animal Sanctuary (Anniemals)
Towcester Museum
Towcester SVP