



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022

PREPARED BY
CARELLA DAVIES



MISSION STATEMENT



Volunteer Centre

Davertry

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

Tel: 01327 300614

Email: info@davertryvolunteers.org.uk

Website: www.davertryvolunteers.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 802879

Drop In times:

Monday- Friday

9.30am - to 1.00pm.

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 for 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.



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EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Davertry Volunteer Centre is committed to ensuring equality, 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

Davertry 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 2021/ 2022 and made our work possible

During this financial year funding was received from:

NHS Northamptonshire CCG
National Lottery Community Fund
WNC Star Funding
Global Giving
SERVE iCAN Partnership
Commsortia/ESF
West Northamptonshire Council
Garfield Weston Foundation
Henry Smith Foundation
DEFRA
Northamptonshire Community Foundation/Anglian Water
NSport
Corby Borough Council
Silverstone DABS Sponsor
Local Lotto
Brenda Dunn Legacy
Much Loved Funeral Donation
Cottons Accountants

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

- D O'Brien Chair - Independent Member
- J Toms Treasurer - Independent Member
- C Davies CEO - Secretary
- S Cave Independent Member
- A Dunn Independent Member - Resigned 24/9/21
- J Hawkes Independent Member
- P Tomalin Independent Member
- A Hills Advisory Member - Resigned 1/4/21
- J Lee Volunteer Rep - Independent Member
- D Berry Citizens Advice Daventry and District Agency Representative - Resigned 31/7/21
- Suzanne Masters Independent Member - from 26/11/21
- Phil Arkell Citizens Advice Daventry and District Agency Representative - from 24/9/21
- David Smith West Northants Council Representative - from 20/8/21
- Lynne Taylor Independent Member - from 20/8/21

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

During this year, DVC expanded in terms of staff numbers and project delivery, both of which is a testament to the work and achievements of the organisation. DVC welcomed 10 new staff members who all bring their own talents and experience.

I thank Carella, Nicola and existing staff in ensuring they were supported in joining the DVC team.

In 2021/22, the country transitioned from lockdown conditions to a world free of restrictions. DVC has shown great flexibility in adjusting projects to the changing external environment, whilst continuing to help and support the more vulnerable members of our community. In addition to project delivery, DVC has continued to provide core services through volunteer brokerage and support to local VCSE organisations.

The successes of DVC are built upon our supporters, both in partnership working and funding. I would like to thank our partners New Street Café, Cummins Engineering, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire and SERVE. This collaboration and partnership working is fundamental to delivering good quality projects.

I would also like to acknowledge and extend our thanks to our funders, the National Lottery Community Fund, NHS Northamptonshire CCG, West Northamptonshire Council, the Henry Smith Foundation, STAR Fund, SERVE/iCAN, Commsortia, Global Giving foundation, Garfield Weston, Defra and Anglian Water. We are grateful for the funding support.

Looking ahead, we are facing more challenges with the Cost of Living Crisis and the longer term impact of the COVID pandemic. DVC are well placed to continue to provide sector support to local organisations and of course in supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities.

On behalf of the management Committee I would like to thank you for your outstanding work and commitment.

CEO'S REPORT



Carella Davies
CEO

What an exceptional year we have had! At the start of April 2021 we were still in lockdown, and the pandemic was continuing to have an enormous impact on the services provided by Daventry Volunteer Centre. In order to support many of the elderly people who would usually visit the New Street Café for lunch each week, (which could not re-open until 17th May), we were able to cook and deliver lunches out to them at home, using funding from the Winter Warmth grant from Northamptonshire Community Foundation, and a team of wonderful volunteers.

The staff team have seen some major changes this year - Sharon, Amanda, Angelina and Susan all moved on, but then we started on an unprecedented time of growth and development for DVC. A number of new grants were awarded to us, and with these new sources of funding, by May 2021 we were able to recruit 5 new part time staff to cover Admin, the Timebank, Café, Countywide Befriending, Milk & You, and Covid Recovery projects, and by March 2022, further funding helped us recruit 5 more part-time staff for the Horizon, Happy @ Home and Covid Recovery projects. In order to help support this expansion, the existing DVC staff team has had to be extremely adaptable, and use their "can-do" approach to our work, to physically accommodate additional desk space and computer sharing, whilst ensuring the new staff all felt welcomed into the Team - and they have done a fantastic job!

We are extremely thankful to all our funders this year, who have enabled us to increase our project delivery work and support hundreds more people in our local communities, including the National Community Lottery Fund (Happy@Home project), NHS Northamptonshire CCG (Milk & You project), West Northamptonshire Council (Infrastructure support), the Henry Smith Foundation (Horizon project), the STAR fund (Covid Recovery project), SERVE/iCAN (Countywide Befriending project), Commsortia (BBO project), Global Giving Foundation (BBO Training Hub refurbishment), Garfield Weston (core funding), DEFRA (Milk & You project), Anglian Water (Happy@Home project).





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, the DVC website, and 1-1 support.



We run the Daventry VCSE Forum (networking, collaboration, idea and initiative sharing, training, and fostering a stronger representative voice for local not-for-profit groups), the Daventry Social Prescribers Network, and along with NDFWN colleagues (Northamptonshire Development and Funding Advice Workers Network), the annual Funding Fair attended by 396 people in June 2021.

Through the Local Infrastructure Organisations Network (LION) – now renamed CAN (Community Action Northants), we secured Lottery funding to deliver free training for VCSE groups, and established the CAN Volunteering platform for the whole of Northamptonshire.



396

People Attended
our Funding Fair

350

VCSE
Organisations
received Advice



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. The new CAN (Community Action Northants) website, funded by the National Lottery secured by the Local Infrastructure Organisations Network, has proved an excellent way to reach local people with volunteering opportunities and provide not-for-profit organisations an easily accessible way of promoting their vacancies.

COVID restrictions have had a significant impact on volunteering activity across Northamptonshire, with large numbers of people stepping down from volunteering once they were able to return to work, and many suffering from "volunteering burnout". However, DVC have focused on promoting volunteer recruitment and this has paid off for us with more confirmed placements than during the previous year. We received a total of 190 volunteering enquiries in 2021/22 compared with 88 enquiries during 2020/21, and referred 118 individuals to 15 different not-for-profit organisations, including our own DVC projects, which resulted in 107 confirmed placements. The year before we referred 81 individuals to 15 different not-for-profit organisations, including our own DVC projects, which resulted in 47 confirmed placements. Over the year we carried out 1973 volunteer brokerage interactions (emails/phone calls/1-1 meetings etc.) - 753 with not-for-profit organisations, and 1220 interactions on behalf of volunteers themselves.

190

**Volunteer
Enquiries**

118

**Volunteers
Placed**

1,973

**Volunteer
Interactions**



PARTNERSHIP WORK:



We continue to promote partnership work and collaboration in order to seek new, mutually beneficial ways of working and sharing resources, and keep abreast of, and input to, the rapidly changing environment, and attend key strategic meetings in order to reflect the views of local organisations.

We have well-established partnerships with New Street Centre and Cummins Engineering to support our New Street Café work, and Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire (VIN) and SERVE to support our Happy@Home project.

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



THE DVC PROJECTS:



For over 30 years DVC have run successful projects that fill the gaps in statutory 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 emerging gaps in provision, and help us adapt our services to meet the needs expressed by our beneficiaries.

We have been able to secure on-going funding for our existing projects throughout this financial year, helped by essential core funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation to see us through a 6-month project funding gap. New three-year funding from the Henry Smith Foundation has enabled us to start the new Horizon project supporting local people with additional needs.

Full reports from the project co-ordinators are overleaf, outlining the highly successful work we have undertaken to support vulnerable people in our local community with the help of our amazing volunteers and employee volunteering support from local businesses.

Please see over for the full project reports.

CASE STUDY:

CASE STUDY



H A P P Y @ H O M E P R O J E C T

FB, 87 years - Female Brackley

Referred by: Content care Company - 10/10/21

GENERAL INFORMATION

F is a lovely charming lady, living alone she relies on the carers to do some everyday tasks and was looking for some help in this area. We were able to help her with this and she was delighted that we could help her.

We explained that we had a lovely volunteer befriender who lived locally that we thought would be suitable and she was thrilled.

F said that she was looking for a gardener for her. She would love to get out as she hasn't left her home in many months

Volunteer recruited:

S has received all her training and DBS and Character references have been collected. She is a hairdresser and wanted to offer her services and befriending to someone who was lonely and was keen to help them out for a coffee in a local café.

Home Visit Carried Out:

28/10/2021

Introduction with Resident & Volunteer

The introduction with F was very easy and straightforward. We stayed for a while to establish conversation, reminded both the volunteer and resident that they needed to exchange telephone numbers and arrange their next visit.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

"I wanted to do something that would help other people and be enjoyable for me. F was the second lady I had visited and we hit it off very well. She is a lovely lady who has no immediate family. She is always cheerful and is very grateful for any help she gets and I enjoy visiting her."



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 2021 is **£1,063,796**.

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

In 2020/21 DVC project volunteers gave **19,290** hours of volunteering time to the local community which can be valued at **£171,873** when costed using minimum wage of £8.91 per hour.

The total social value for the Happy at Home project has been calculated at a massive **£848, 576** for example

20% of Elderly residents remain living independently due to H@H interventions so this means that 22 residents x £36,608 (average cost of residential care per week is £704) = **£805,376**

5% of 108 Elderly residents avoid Hip Fracture costs so this means 5.4 residents x £8,000 = **£43,200**

The Happy@Home project volunteers enable isolated elderly people to remain living independently in their own homes for longer, the 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.

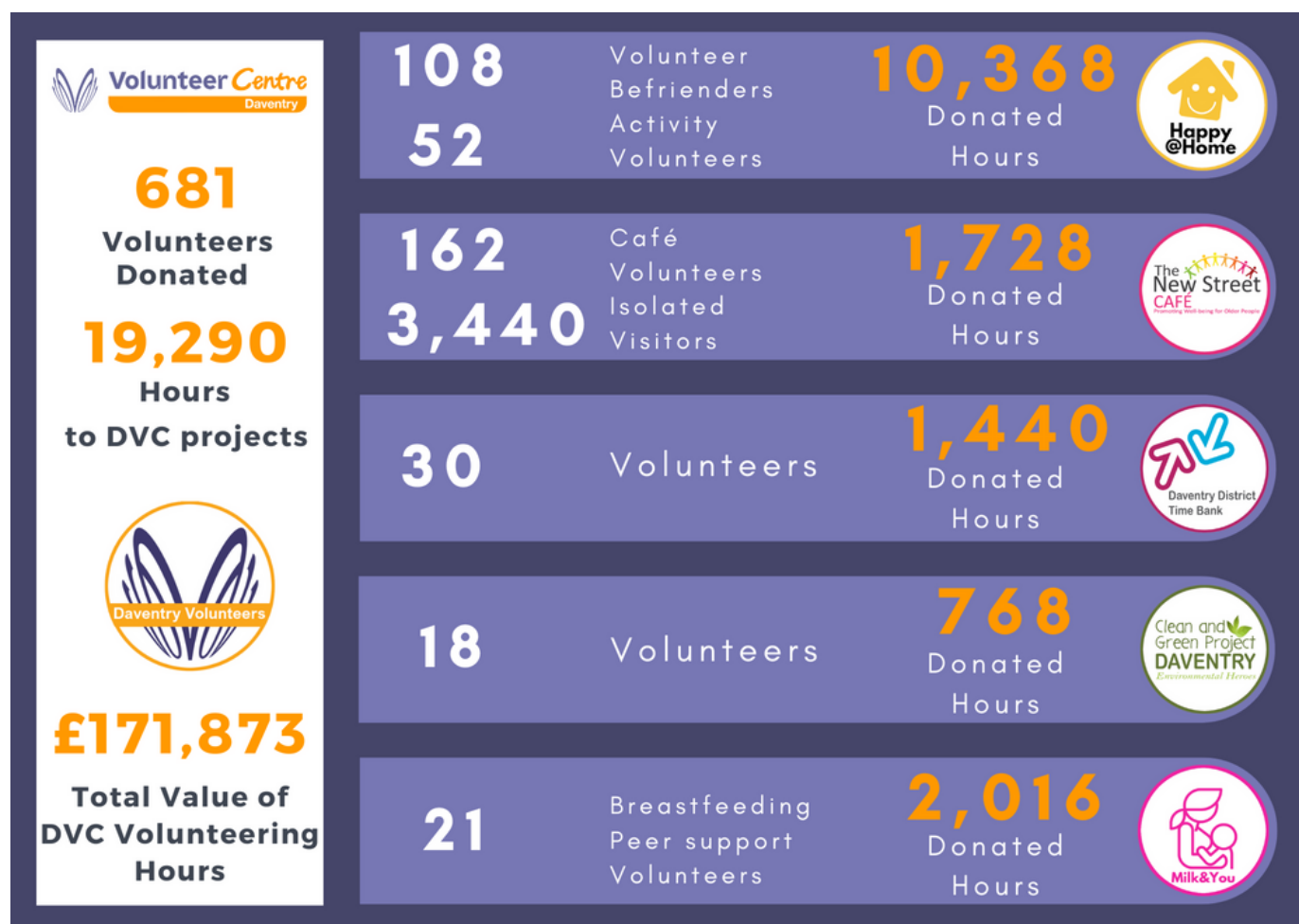


Total Added Value
OVER
£1 million!



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 2021-2022 is an amazing **£1,063,796**.



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



THANK YOU ALL:

Our Volunteers enable DVC to carry out our work in the local community - without them we would not be able to run our projects which provide vital services to 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 people of all of our beneficiaries, and improving community resilience. Overall our volunteers gave an amazing 19,290 hours of help! Thank you to all our volunteers - you have made a significant difference to the lives of the people you have supported including those suffering the on-going effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would also like to repeat my thanks to the all DVC staff team, especially Nicola my deputy CEO, who have done an amazing job of running their projects, and supporting the teams of volunteers. It is the willingness and adaptability of the DVC staff team members that enables us to deliver our services to the local community so effectively, and I thank them all for their loyalty and support.

I would also like to thank the DVC Trustees for all their hard work throughout the year, and for always being on hand to offer their support, in particular Derval our Chair, and Joshua and Stephen for Treasurer 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 on-going support and encouragement you give to me and to the DVC staff team.

And finally a enormous "Thank you" once again to all our funders, for the financial support we have received throughout the year. 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 all, on behalf of the local community you help us to support.

Carella Davies

CEO



Nicola Toms
Project Manager

HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

This has been a year of change for Happy@Home and the wider community, trying to get back to Face-to-Face meetings whilst keeping everyone safe.

Our biggest change came at the beginning of the year when we agreed a partnership with SERVE to deliver the Northamptonshire Befriending Service. This is being funded through the NHS. We are thrilled to be given the opportunity to strengthen our connection with the NHS, which we hope will contribute to the sustainability of the project long-term.

In October we introduced a new CRM database across DVC, allowing us to bring together all our information and data. This is never an easy job and the team worked really hard to transfer data and get to grips with the new setup. Everyone has seen the benefits of using such a good system. With the launch of the new Community Action Northants volunteering platform we are in a really strong position with our IT.

We have seen changes with our staffing too, saying goodbye to Sharon, who has been my right-hand lady. She gave so much to Happy@Home both as a volunteer and then later as a project worker. I know she will be missed by everyone on the project and the whole DVC team.

Susan, who was previously a volunteer, started with the team in June, but sadly left us in March. Our new partnership has allowed us to employ a larger part-time team, which will allow us to deliver wider Happy@Home services.

We are so grateful to the National Lottery, who, with their funding have given us the opportunity to continue this vital project and support our volunteer befrienders, and elderly isolated people across our communities.

We would also like to say thank you to Cummins, and to Slimming World customers who continue to help us make Christmas special by delivering of 60 Christmas Hampers and providing Christmas gifts to all our beneficiaries.



Northamptonshire
Befriending Service



COMMUNITY
FUND



HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT:

Volunteers

As the world started to find their new normal, volunteer numbers declined across all VCSE organisations. This has made recruiting volunteer befrienders challenging.

With the creation of the new CAN Website and the tireless work of our team to find different ways of recruiting volunteers, we have still managed to recruit 63 new befrienders.

Our volunteers have given over 13,000 hours across the projects activities.

Supporting and valuing our volunteers has always been at the heart of our project. A huge **THANK YOU** from our team at DVC, but also from the befriendeds, WNC, local GP surgeries and many other statutory organisations who have received their help.

What others say about our volunteers

Popped in to see S this morning, she looks like a new person, she said that her new volunteer has been taking her out and she is much happier.
PCSO

Please let your volunteer know that we have received a call from a relative of someone that you have recently supported. They are so grateful and said the volunteer was really kind, which made all the difference
West Northants Council

Thank you so much for finding such a lovely befriender for our patient B. He is doing so well. Please let them know that they are making a real difference.
Social Prescriber

I have been able to go out for the first time in two years. I am so grateful to my volunteer she is amazing
Befriended

John is proper good bloke. I love it when he visits... we have a proper laugh
Befriended



HAPPY@HOME PROJECT REPORT



COVID Recovery

We knew that this period would be difficult for the whole of our community. There were many many elderly residents that had been shielding for a long time and were finding it difficult to get back to a more normal way of life. We also had residents that would need continuing support with their shopping and prescription collection.

We recruited part-time staff to deliver our COVID Recovery project, giving support to people to help them to venture out, encouraging and supporting them to join in social groups and other activities (do their own shopping) etc. We have also delivered Foodbank shopping to those who couldn't collect it for themselves and given emergency food supplies to those who couldn't wait for their Foodbank referral (i.e. over the weekend etc.)

New Volunteer shoppers were recruited and new groups (including a games group at the New Street Café) were created. Our project workers organised volunteer deliveries and accompanied residents on shopping trips as well as and bringing them to groups.

As part of our project we created a Walk & Talk group for those residents that needed some extra one-to-one support. This encouraged them to build up their confidence and regain their independence.

*'I usually find it difficult to talk to people but you are very easy to talk to and it's been a lovely walk'.
Resident J*

*I don't know what I would have done if it wasn't for you. I just can't get out and shop for myself. Thank you from the bottom of my heart
Resident L*

*Nula has been doing our shopping every week for the last 2 years. She is such a special person.
Residents Mr & Mrs P*

596

Requests for help

257

Shopping bought & delivered

199

Prescriptions collected & delivered



MILK&YOU PROJECT:

Michelle Santhi

The Milk&You project has seen a growth that we never anticipated. Our staff and volunteers have worked incredibly hard with some huge achievements being accomplished – the partnerships with all three NHS Trusts, plus continued funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group (Local Maternity Services).

In addition to the services outlines above, the project also provided 22 families with food items to ensure pregnant, breastfeeding mothers and babies who were starting solid foods were able to eat healthy meals when finances were restricted. We have received 100% positive feedback about the peer support service from both families and professionals.

In just 6 months, our Corby registrations are matching that of Daventry which is exceptional. We only hope both areas will keep growing. We have decided to train more volunteers who will be able to provide 'mother support' in and out of the home alongside breastfeeding support to ensure mothers across Northamptonshire are cared for by each other, in a way that reduces stress levels and reduces the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next year we are looking at expansion into Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough and employing new staff to enable this. We hope to increase our volunteer numbers from 21 to 100! We have a busy few months ahead but we are excited to be given the platform to be Northamptonshire's leading infant feeding peer support service.

Thank you to all those who contributed to our vision, supported our aims and stood beside our team at events, meetings and through funding applications. Your support is valued and the impact has been extremely positive on families.





BBO PROJECT REPORT:

Chris Kelly

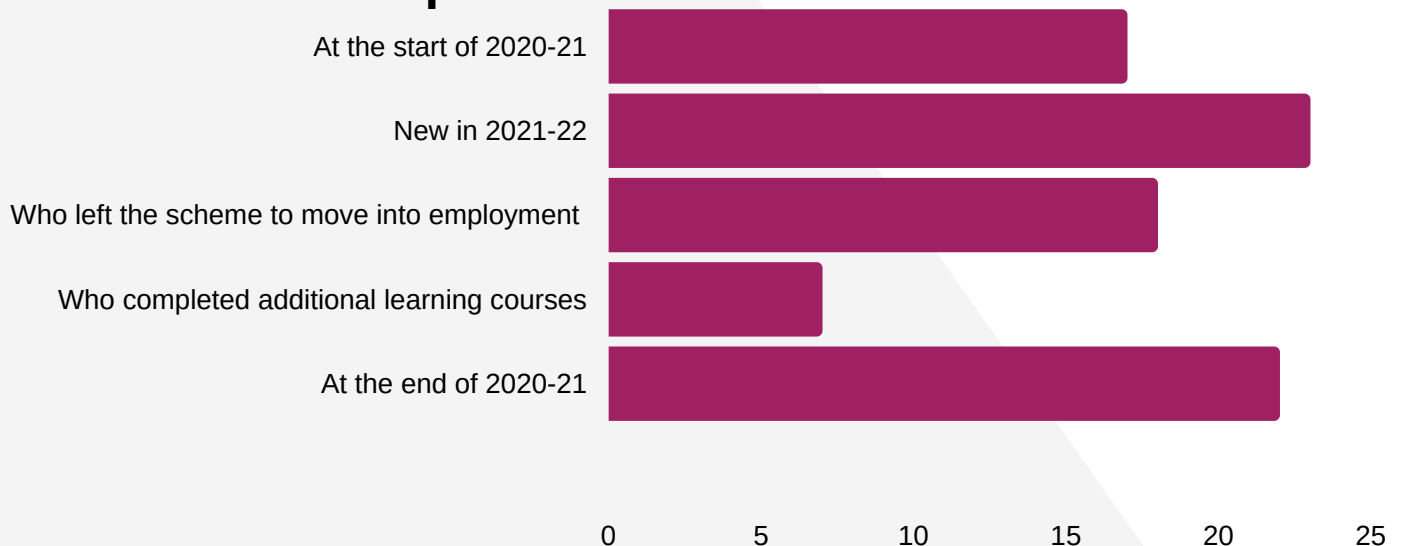


As Building Better Opportunities entered its final year the project has continued to support local people into meaningful employment, education, volunteering and training.

With the opening up and return of face-to-face appointments at the Job Centre it has been great to forge closer links with statutory providers over and above the NHS and Social Prescribing. This has led to both an increase and a change in profile of BBO participants over the past year.

Through our strong NHS links BBO has the chance to meet people early in their recovery or soon after a point of crisis, often working with people who have recently suffered loss or early on in their recovery from mental health challenges. Naturally this leads to longer-term interventions and support to rebuild confidence and explore what work 'looks like' after many years away. With closer links to the Job Centre we have also had the opportunity to work with people who are 'job ready' but are not well served by traditional employment support.

Number of Participants



This has led to an increase in older (55+) participants and often shorter interventions as they have clear ideas about where they would like to be. For example, someone might not be confident or have access to IT and therefore largely unable to apply for jobs in today's world, or cannot return to the work they did due to physical demands and as such require intensive yet sympathetic support in exploring - and trialling - alternative routes to employment.



BBO PROJECT REPORT:



Due to the strengthening of these links the project in Daventry was able to exceed the stretch targets set for BBO both in sign-ups and also employment exits.

There will always be people who require additional or different support than traditional avenues and over the project BBO has helped an incredible number of people not just with work, but with managing debts, repairing relationships with services, fighting housing issues, tackling food poverty and more. Placing employment support within a community centre and charity setting is the best way to effectively help people with multiple barriers to work and I hope that BBO at DVC has helped to prove that. Here we have been able to look at people and their lives in a whole and helped people to achieve things they didn't think possible for which we should all be proud. This is summed up no better than in feedback provided by a local Social Prescriber...

"In just over two years as a Social Prescribing Link Worker, at Danetre Medical Practice, I have made many referrals to the Building Better Opportunities project. The project has supported our patients by giving them a space where they do not feel pressured or 'less than', they have been able to articulate their needs and requirements to Chris [and Anne], and [they] have been person-centred in allowing them to choose their best route to employment. This freedom and acceptance of people as they are, is I believe, pivotal in the success of the project. Patients have accessed CV writing support, job searching, and courses which have allowed them to upskill; as well as volunteering opportunities to increase confidence and experience. The Building Better Opportunities service is a complete package of support.'

Chris Kelly
BBO Project Coordinator

BBO PROJECT REPORT:

SUCCESSSES



B B O - B U I L D I N G B E T T E R O P P O R T U N I T I E S

BBO - Build Better Opportunities

SUCCESSSES THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

A participant who left farming and cared for his mother for 12 years secured employment in a local grounds maintenance firm. This participant had never accessed the internet before and was worried he was 'too old' to be employable, and 'too unfit' to return to work he loved doing. Through both supporting and managing online job application processes BBO was able to eliminate that barrier, and through volunteering to clear and maintain gardens for older residents alongside Happy@Home proved to them that they 'still had it'. One of the final pieces of support – providing and teaching them how to use a smart phone – has enabled the participant to secure a further job post-BBO now he is able to navigate the online world independently.

Being the 'final piece' in the journey of a younger participant with Asperger's as they secured their first ever job. Building upon the fantastic work of the DVC Clean & Green project to build confidence, give responsibility and increase fitness, BBO was able to support the participant to volunteer in a retail environment and gradually weave their skills, experience and outlook into job searching. Their green thumbs and wonderful customer focus are now being utilised at a local garden centre.

QUOTE:

"[Participant] Cheers...it was great to finally be listened to... and help me find a job that I actually wanted to do"

"[Participant] Thank you for giving me the space to be able to talk things through and build confidence by volunteering. It has been invaluable to be able to pop into chat with Chris. He is great and has definitely changed my life."



NEW STREET CAFÉ PROJECT REPORT:

Nicola Toms

We opened the Café on 18th May 2021 and were hopeful that we wouldn't have to close our doors again.

Many of our volunteers and our long-term volunteer cook Sue decided not to return and we were sad to see them leave.

We made the decision to employ Annie as our community cook at the end of May. With the reduction of volunteers the Café opening times were changed to three times a week, which has worked really well. Without the volunteers from Cummins we couldn't start our Community Lunches until the beginning of July when they were increased to weekly.

Over the year we have recruited new volunteers both for the Café and the kitchen, encouraging people to experience volunteering who may not have thought it was possible before.

Rugby College reached out to us for a placement for three of their students. Annie supported them to experience working in a community kitchen. The college was really grateful and the students engaged with our elderly customers, who loved speaking with them.

Annie has gone from strength to strength, her ability to train and support new volunteers has meant that our volunteer numbers are back to pre-Covid numbers and the Café is as busy as ever. With the support of work-based volunteers from Coventry Building Society, Amazon, Tesco, Cummins & Waitrose we were able to provide a Christmas Lunch to over 100 people.



Annie our new
Community Cook



Rugby College students volunteering as
part of their work experience



HORIZON PROJECT REPORT:

Hannah Dezille



The Horizon project offers holistic, person centred support, to people with additional support needs, enabling them to increase social interaction within their community, and build confidence and skills, which in turn improves their mental health and well-being

Our project started in February 2022, and is funded by the Henry Smith Foundation for three years. We receive referrals from different agencies including Social Prescribers, GP surgeries and the Job Centre, and people can also self-refer. We are gradually building up our support work - individuals and small groups are taking part in activities such as our Ladies Swim & Gym sessions, Walking group, Litter picking, Art Therapy sessions, as well as our Cooking classes and Baking classes at the New Street Centre. The project members are having lots of fun, making friends, and everyone is enjoying trying new experiences!

We have a few keen gardeners engaged in the project and they have been very good at teaching other project members about growing vegetables & plants



Our recent trip over to Wilton Locks garden centre, we explored the beautiful flowers, Garden ornaments and outdoor area and even had a lovely coffee in the Café.



Participants volunteer, helping build friendships and increase confidence.

HORIZON PROJECT REPORT:

CASE STUDY



H O R I Z O N P R O J E C T

Participant A is a young man with diagnosed learning difficulties

GENERAL INFORMATION

A was referred to Horizon from Adult Social Services. He lives with his mum and 3 younger siblings. He wanted to learn some basic life skills including, baking, budgeting and meal planning etc. A wanted to extend his friendship groups outside his home and small circle of acquaintances.

We made an action plan with A to explore how we could support him in creating a more independent life. A set goals to work towards this plan.

Firstly A attended one to one sessions building confidence and then moved onto group activities. A has been learning basic cookery and meal planning.

As A's confidence has grown he has started volunteering in the New Street Cafe at events.

I have seen A's confidence increase, he is now able to talk confidently with staff and other volunteers. He has joined other organisation (including MIND and The Cube) taking part in group activities without the need of a support worker.

A tell us that he now sees a future living independently and building a life for himself.

QUOTE:

"I have cooked a meal for the whole family and they loved it. Coming into Horizon helps me as I have someone else other than my family to talk things through with."



TIMEBANK PROJECT REPORT:

Anne-Marie

Davertry Timebank is an un-funded mutual help scheme where local people share their skills in a voluntary capacity with others in their community, and are rewarded with Time Credits. The project is open to everyone with an aim to help support people with mental health issues, the elderly, or on low incomes. For every hour given providing a service for another participant, members receive one Time Credit. Credits can then be used by members to receive help themselves or can be donated to others in need.

Social events for the Timebank volunteers have proved popular in the past and following the relaxation of Covid rules in October, we began holding social events for volunteers to encourage engagement. Events have included, Coffee mornings, craft sessions and Country walks.

The Timebank has also received support from volunteers to complete small repair DIY jobs, and is currently building a volunteer bank to support more people in the community with basic home DIY, IT support, gardening and more.





Volunteer Centre

Daventry



Northamptonshire
Clinical Commissioning Group



Integrated Care
Northamptonshire



The New Street Centre

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- Charity No: 802879 -