

West Devon CVS

Community & Voluntary Services

Annual Review 2023-24

“Helping individuals, not-for-profit groups and community enterprises bring about positive change and build stronger communities.”

https://westdevoncvs.org.uk/

Message from our Chair

“As I and my fellow trustees look back on 23-24, I am proud of the progress we have made throughout the year.

The past 12 months have remained challenging with the continuing cost of living crisis and the financial constraints on the statutory sector which have impacted the Voluntary and Community Sector - and ourselves as part of that sector.

To achieve our vision that people and communities of West Devon are healthy, active , inclusive, thriving, supported and connected, we have begun the process of re-structuring our staff team to provide greater focus on delivering our aims and objectives; implementing a series of key performance indicators so that we can fully demonstrate and understand our impact on the communities.

Our focus for 2024-2025 is the sustainability of the organisation, both financial and in governance terms and we are actively seeking finance and trustees to help us achieve this.

I wish to thank and pay tribute to the staff who have embraced a number of changes this year with good humour and flexibility. They are without exception, committed and hardworking. Without them and my fellow trustees it would not be possible to exist.”

Philip King



Maintained contact with 545 Voluntary and Community Organisations and projects based in,4 or delivering services to, West Devon



Supporting 543 individuals to link with community activities and services



4 Wellbeing events with over 700 members of public attending and 90 groups participating

Health and Wellbeing Alliances continued to go from strength to strength. 11 meetings were held in the year from across all sectors. With 119 groups/services participating



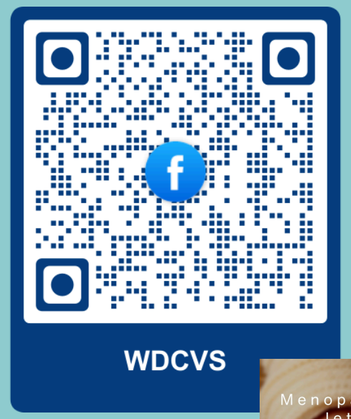
Provided one to one support to 54 groups in the areas of funding advice, governance and general information

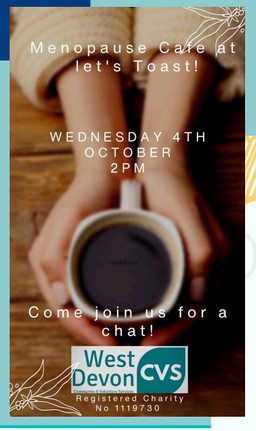
Social media and Devon Connect used to promote volunteering opportunities.



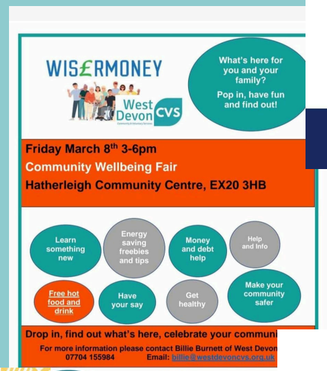
Publicised 4 online volunteering campaigns with Devon Voluntary Action

Social Media Standout











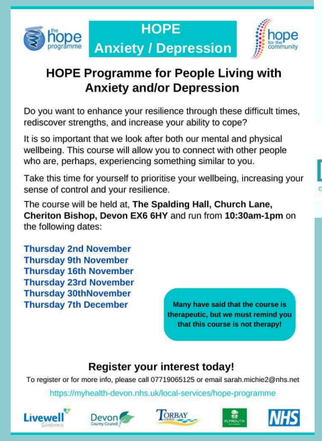














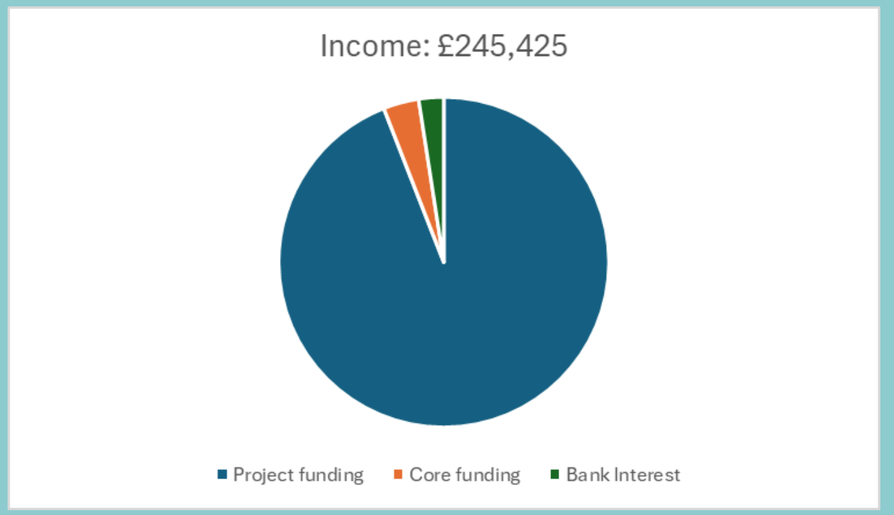


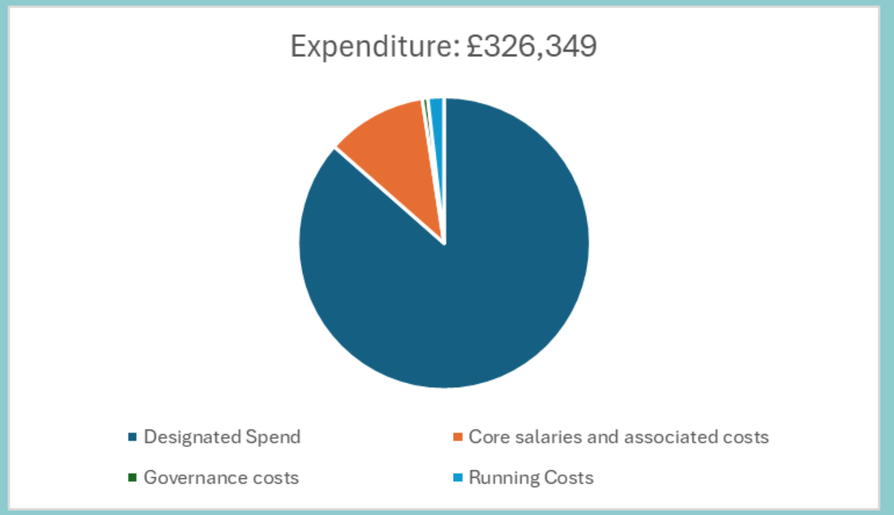
Our Finances

Incoming resources for the year were £245,425 with expenditure of £326,349.

Whilst income has reduced by almost 50% compared to 2022-2023 due to completion of projects, expenditure remained relatively flat, and higher than income, as amounts held in reserve for delivery against grant agreements were defrayed.

The majority of our funding was through grants. £230,876 directed at specific project activity with the remainder being from bank interest, core funding and funds received for staff time - overall this increased slightly this year.





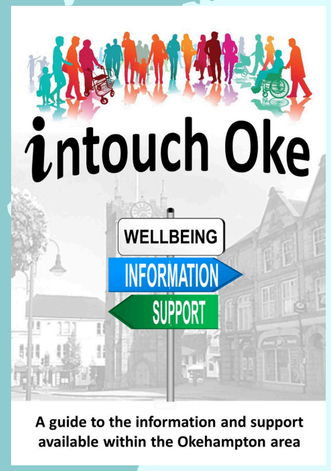
Trustees have reviewed our reserves policy this year and made adjustments to ensure that there are adequate sums to meet statutory redundancy payments for all staff and long term agreements. Reserves set aside for these purposes as of 31/03/24 are £37,173.

Risks to which the charity has been exposed are reviewed through a risk register tabled at each trustee meeting. This includes both internal and external risks.

The financial position of the charity are reported at each trustee meeting and spend is closely monitored to assess progress against budget and costs.

In undertaking our activities through the year we have kept in mind the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

Making Connections:



Maintained In Touch Tavi and In Touch Oke as local online sources of help and support covering health, wellbeing, young people, families, money and debt advice, transport and local village support groups

These lists are frequently updated and evolving, reflecting current circumstances e.g. cost of living issues. We also provided local directories for each rural wellbeing event we delivered.



Information

DEVON Connect

We continued to promote Devon Connect, a one stop community platform, as part of our participation in Devon Voluntary Action taking responsibility for the West Devon elements of the South Hams and West Devon landing page, community listings and volunteer opportunities.

DVA Devon Voluntary Action

We are grateful to the Transitions project, funded through National Lottery and our partnership with Wiser Money for contributing to our Information and Communications role which enables us to provide a local service directory for the local community alongside each event .

Health and Wellbeing Alliances

Okehampton and Tavistock Areas



We continued to hold these well attended quarterly meetings. These are a platform for local voluntary groups and statutory services to come together to find collaborative solutions to meet local needs.

To make the meetings more accessible we introduced the facility to attend virtually as well as in person during the year.

Wellbeing Events

Okehampton and Tavistock

We successfully organised and delivered two Wellbeing Community Events in Tavistock and Okehampton thanks to funding from Devon Country Council councillors, and in Okehampton, Okehampton United Charities. Each event had over 30 organisations showcasing their services with a combined total of more than 500 members of the public attending.

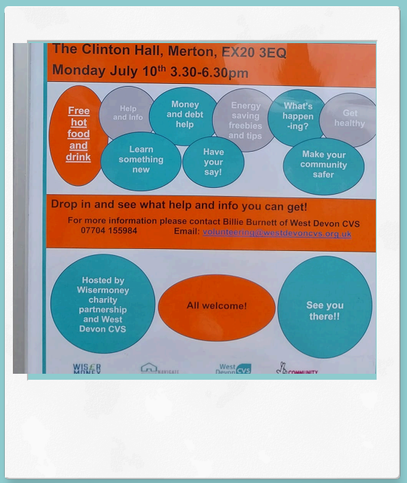
Rural events

Thanks to funding from National Lottery through our partnership with Wisermoney we delivered 2 community wellbeing events, in Merton and Hatherleigh. These provide an opportunity at a much more local level for individuals to be aware of services available to them.

For each event our InTouch local service directories are updated and provided.













Warmer Healthier Homes

The original funding for the project came to an end in April 2023 but with our partners, Tamar Energy Community and South Dartmoor Community Energy, we have been successful in obtaining a further 2 years funding with the project restarting in October 2023.

The project addresses fuel poverty and unhealthy homes in West Devon and South Hams for those in need and offers free advice about affordable energy. The programme is funded by Energy Savings Trust

Ukraine Guests

We continued to support Ukrainian guests in West Devon to assimilate in the community, funding local groups to provide activities and services for example trips organised by Tavistock Area Support Services and English courses. We also provided 28 grants to families to help with the start of the new school year.

West Devon Borough Council

Health and Wellbeing

Continued to support the health and wellbeing of individuals in North Dartmoor and Tavistock through grant agreements with the local Primary Care Networks to deliver **Social Prescribing**. The service supported 543 individuals to link with community activities and services, allowing us to identify gas in VCSE services and facilitate development of relevant services.

Through the **HOPE** facilitator role we delivered 3 in person courses across West Devon supporting 36 people. HOPE (Help Overcoming Problems Effectively) is funded by Torbay and South Devon Trust – courses were also arranged by the WDCVS facilitator in Mid Devon and Exeter.

Our **Hospital Discharge** roles supported those discharged from Hospital across the two PCN areas. During the year these roles have supported 25 people to re-connect with their community and improve their confidence in getting out and about after, often lengthy, hospital stays.

In December 2023 West Devon CVS and South Hams CA were awarded a grant on behalf of the Western Local Care Partnership to deliver a programme of work to explore the effectiveness of **peer support** models within the LCP area and the impact these may have on individuals' health inequalities. After an initial set up phase, by the end of the financial year, emerging groups include Cancer and Diabetes Peer Support , as well as marketing and networking support being offered to existing groups in the area.

Our future

As part of the quest to increase organisational resilience we are seeking to change our legal structure from an Unincorporated Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

We will extend our presence in rural areas by means of outreach sessions, our Community Builder roles and local Community Wellbeing Fairs.

We will complete implementation of new staffing structure to help deliver on our aims and objectives, as well as look to increase our number of Trustees.

We will focus on our social media and other methods of communications to make them more relevant and accessible- e.g. QR Codes, Consistent branding.

Our thanks go to our funders, - your contributions are very much appreciated. Finally our appreciation and thanks to our wonderful, vibrant and impressive voluntary and community sector in West Devon and all the people who are involved with them. The staff and volunteers without which our communities would be a poorer place.

The Team

March 2024

Karen Nolan—Chief Officer
Orla Turner—Community Development
Billie Burnett—Information Co-ordinator
Hannah Child- Community builder
Lisa Smith- Community builder.
Becky Beesley—Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Marion Balsdon—Wellbeing Co-ordinator
Teresa Sheehan- Wellbeing Coordinator
Kim Kenyon Noquet—Wellbeing Coordinator
Amy Phillips—Core 20 +
Sarah Michie—HOPE co-ordinator
Amanda Bowen - Hosted on behalf of Tavistock Dementia Alliance



Governance

Our Trustees

Philip King
Katheryn Vile
Ursula Mann
Darren Newland

West Devon CVS

Registered Charity Number 1119730
Registered Company Number 6115797

Our Accountants:
Westcotts Timberley, South Street, Axminster EX13 5AD

Our Bankers:
CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill, West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Our thanks, as always, go to West Devon Borough Council for their continued support.