



South Hams Community Action
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16 November 2023

Dear South Hams Parish and Town Councils

I am writing to share with you the report for South Hams Community Action (formerly South Hams CVS) for the year 2022/23 – and our priorities for 2024 – which we hope you will find of interest, and to ask if your Town Council would consider providing a donation to support our services in 2024.

As a charity, we rely on funding to enable us to work with your community organisations and to help groups with advice on governance, funding and volunteering. We also provide training, advice and information sessions, and promote volunteering across the district.

In May 2023, we undertook a survey of our voluntary and community organisations and we are now working hard to support the identified needs, by creating new roles and opportunities. Within the next month we will be holding a:

- **Mini-conference for our caring organisations** on 21 November (open to town and parish councils) where our caring organisations can learn from other groups, network and hear about the work being undertaken by Totnes Caring, Dementia Friendly Communities and Devon Carers.
- **Funding day.** Many of our community groups need funding advice and support, so we are organising a funding support day on 4 December to enable attendees to meet the National Lottery team and other funders. A workshop will also provide advice on writing a successful application.

South Hams Community Action also includes social prescribers who work with GP practices to support residents on a one-to-one basis. There is such a demand for this service that we are increasing this service by creating community link worker roles to offer socially isolated residents more direct support, training with IT and helping them to access wellbeing activities.

During the past year, we have provided grant funding and governance advice to a range of groups in Ivybridge – often on a one-to-one basis. We have also supported your Ukrainian residents and hosts with transport, activities and events. Our community connector has also supported a range of activities.

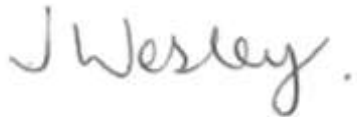
Community wellbeing is vital, and our many voluntary and community groups offer a wide-reaching role by providing activities and support, not just for lonely and vulnerable residents but for the wider community. South Hams Community Action would like to do more to help support your communities and groups in many other key areas of need. This includes volunteer recruitment and training,

fundraising support and advice, transport to social activities and befriending for our lonely and vulnerable residents of all age groups. We would also like to build our team to offer more one-to-one support to residents.

We would like to thank Ivybridge Town Council for your contribution towards the work of our community connector and ask for your continued support for our work. This is an essential source of funding to South Hams Community Action. We would like to do more to support your local community groups and we hope very much that your Town Council might be able to consider making a contribution towards our valuable work in 2024.

Please don't hesitate to contact me on 07801 574 945 or by email on jackie@southhamscvs.org.uk for any information or advice.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "J Wesley."

Jackie Wesley
Chief Executive Officer
South Hams Community Action