

MEETING REPORT

Meeting: Council – 30th October 2023
Agenda item: 23/078
Report subject: Updates & Information – CVS AGM
Report author: Jackie Wesley, Chief Executive Officer, South Hams CVS

Councillor updates, conference & events

FOR INFORMATION – CVS AGM

At our AGM yesterday (17 October) our Chair of Trustees announced that it had been resolved to change South Hams CVS' trading name to South Hams Community Action.

Welcome to South Hams Community Action!

Please find attached our Annual Report and also the presentation given at the AGM. Other presentations were given by Sarah Mackereth, DCC/Livewell and Councillor Dan Thomas, SHDC (attached).

During the presentation to attendees, South Hams Community Action announced that:

- We have recruited to a Partnerships & Funding Manager post. This postholder will join our team later this year and will provide training, support and advice on funding to our voluntary sector organisations. There will also be a funding peer-support network and other opportunities to enhance funding streams and sustainability.
- We also now have support for groups wishing to change their legal structure, eg. CIC/CIO, or for new groups who wish to formalise their structure.

South Hams Community Action is actively seeking funding for the following:

- Volunteer recruitment/Communications: In the survey undertaken earlier this year our voluntary sector organisations asked for more help with volunteer recruitment and communications. We are working to develop a post to support our VCSE with their communications and volunteer recruitment needs.
- Community Builders: In addition to their geographical work, the postholders will have 'champion' remits and will support groups who are working with residents who are social isolated (including children and young people, and mental health), families living with dementia and/or carers of all ages.
- Community Link Workers: Our social prescribers undertake fantastic work within the community. However, their caseloads are high and referrals are made via GPs/PCNs. Therefore, we are creating additional Community Link Worker roles. The postholders will be able to undertake referrals from hospitals, social care, police, other agencies/organisations and/or friends and family. They will also buddy clients who need support to access activities, upskill clients on IT, eg. Facetime and develop a peer-support network.

Other:

- Our voluntary sector survey identified specific training needs for many of our organisations. We are working to develop a range of options to make our training offer more flexible. This will include face-to-face courses, online courses on

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Zoom/Teams or training available via our website. We are also enhancing our training offer to offer a wider range of course options.

- **We are running a District-wide Caring mini-conference on Tuesday 21 November at Follaton House, Totnes.** Speakers will include Claire Hill, Totnes Caring; Liz Hitchens, Four Rivers Dementia Alliance; and Suzie Walters-Jefferies, Devon Carers. The aim of this first mini conference is to enable our caring organisations to network, learn what other organisations are undertaking, and also to potentially come together with a peer-support network at a later stage.
- **We are holding a funding event for our VCSE in December.** The National Lottery team will offer advice on their funding streams – alongside other funders. There will also be a workshop on funding applications and accessing funding. This will be held at Tumbly Hill, Kingsbridge (date to be confirmed shortly).