



Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Organisations

Background

CBC support

Continued core funding established by the legacy authorities.

3 organisations , one grant agreement set up in 2016 worth £231,400 over 3 years.

Infrastructure Role

Infrastructure organisations support and encourage the sector to develop and thrive through advice and information provision; training; volunteer recruitment, placement and support; representation; community development activity, village hall advice.

Five Year Plan

A key outcome in the Council's emerging Five Year Plan is for our towns and villages to be sustainable and resilient places where:

- People are supported to help themselves and others;
- People of all ages will be encouraged to volunteer; and
- Residents, community organisations and town and parish councils will have opportunities to do more in and for their communities

Outcomes and Performance 2016/17-2017/18

O 1 - Increase the number of people volunteering

O 2 - Increase the amount of volunteering individuals do

- 1497 enquiries brokered and 241 volunteers placed

O 3 - Communities doing more for themselves

O 4 - Communities delivering local services

- 12 new groups set up, 229 groups supported with advice and technical assistance

- 600 households supported through online social platform

- Community led planning, local greenspace enhancement,

O 5 - Community enablers and active citizens

O 6 - Maximise the use of physical assets to support local communities 56 community building committees given advice

Presentations

Community and Voluntary Services

Martin Trinder

CVS Bedfordshire



- **We ‘supercharge’ the work of the local voluntary sector** - Critical role in supporting the sector with funding applications, tenders and staying legal.
- **A trusted, independent and impartial view on behalf of the local voluntary sector** - Connecting the sector with each other and the public/private sectors.
- **Encouraging volunteering and civic participation** - Promoting volunteering, supporting local people to get involved in their communities and do more for themselves.



We work across Bedfordshire – funded by Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough and a local grant making trust.

Impact of funding reduction in Central Bedfordshire:

Over the next three years:

- Local authority incur over £180,000 of additional costs
- Demand for council services will also increase
- Volunteer contribution worth over £450,000 will be lost
- Local VCSE sector income reduce by over £700,000

Presentations

Community Action Bedfordshire

John Gelder



Some key outcomes of our work with community groups and local communities

- People are inspired to volunteer, have the opportunity to do so and have excellent volunteering experiences.
- Local communities are able to do more for themselves by creating, running and sustaining the community groups, social networks and cultural activities needed to develop strong and vibrant communities.
- Residents feel less isolated or lonely and are better connected with other residents, community groups and local services.
- Community groups have the people, skills, knowledge, systems and resources to meet the needs of their residents/service users, achieve their aims and recruit, retain and manage volunteers.
- Social Return on Investment: £8.22 - £10.47 for every £1 invested.



Impact of reduced or zero funding of local VCSE Support Services

- No means for local residents to find a route into volunteering.
- Much more difficult for public sector to energise communities into doing more for themselves.
- Increased risk of local groups having poor governance, insufficient 'know how', volunteers and other resources needed to provide effective and trusted services.
- Reduced visibility for local charities and groups as national ones take centre stage, drawing resources away from CB.
- Reduction in residents' involvement in volunteering, local affairs, active lifestyles and community life, resulting in increased reliance on public services when help is needed.

Presentations

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Tracy Cowan / Cliff Andrew

BRCC

Helping people & communities do more for themselves



65 years service to Bedfordshire's communities



Supporting Communities Team:

- Acts as 'Community Mobilisers'
- Hosts Network of Good Neighbour Schemes, some of which act as 'Community Connectors'
- Provides Community Buildings advisory service
- Facilitates Community-led Planning
- Hosts Rural Housing Enabler
- Hosts Community Agent service for some communities
- Now also hosts Social Prescribing Team of Community Wellbeing Champions for Central Bedfordshire



Impacts & Outcomes



-  Survey of 159 community buildings; bespoke information and advice given to 56 Community Building management groups.
-  38 GNS with over 900 volunteers; undertaking an average of over 15,000 tasks for 2,700 clients, pa.
-  Over last 2 years have supported the production of 25 community-led plans.
-  New community groups have started; new health initiatives have commenced; group:group and group:individual connections have been made; green spaces have been enhanced; access routes have been improved.
-  *Our work has led to stronger, better informed communities; with more volunteers involved in helping more people in their communities.*

