

Community Development Case Studies 2024/25

Community Development funders

one northern devon



Northern Devon Inclusive Community framework

Collaborative development

Northern Devon Inclusive Community framework

Working towards inclusive communities, together.

We are seeing more people impacted across Northern Devon by trauma, homelessness, poor mental health who are often using substances to deal with their trauma and getting involved in anti social behaviour. We want to offer something different but can only do this by working together.



NDVS, TTVS & Encompass Southwest, with support from Barnstaple Town Council and the Community Developers, have come together to develop a new inclusion framework for Northern Devon that supports people experiencing trauma and multiple disadvantages. Community groups and businesses are coming together to help improve access to opportunities, increase knowledge and create a framework where everyone can get involved.

We start with a **whole day Learning event, an experience aimed at providing opportunities to explore shaping community culture and participate in bitesize learning**. The test and learn pilot aimed to help attendees gain knowledge and understanding of the impacts of Trauma, Rough Sleeping, Mental Health and Substance Misuse. In return, we are asking groups and businesses to work with us to develop a framework which can be shared across Northern Devon to breakdown the barriers and give everyone regardless of their situations an opportunity to get involved.

Programme for the Day included talks on Trauma Informed Community Assessment Tool - TTVS; Equality, Diversion & Inclusion - Sunrise Diversity; Trauma Awareness - Encompass; Drug & Alcohol Use Mythbusting - Together Drug & Alcohol Service; Mental Health First Aid Awareness - NDVS; Accessing Local Mental Health Support - Devon Mental Health Alliance. Guided group discussions will be around 3 main areas: 1. Moving Forward Together/Supporting Change, 2. Action and Barriers, 3. Training Evaluation and Needs.

Some of our learning

- This work started from conversations with OND Flow case workers, that support individuals. When involving Community Developers, it progressed to a population/community-based approach to maximise impact and create longer lasting cultural change.
- Co-design allowed space to build relationships between CD practitioners
- The CDs and VCSE partners are finding ways to work together in a light hearted but meaningful and productive way.

What's next?

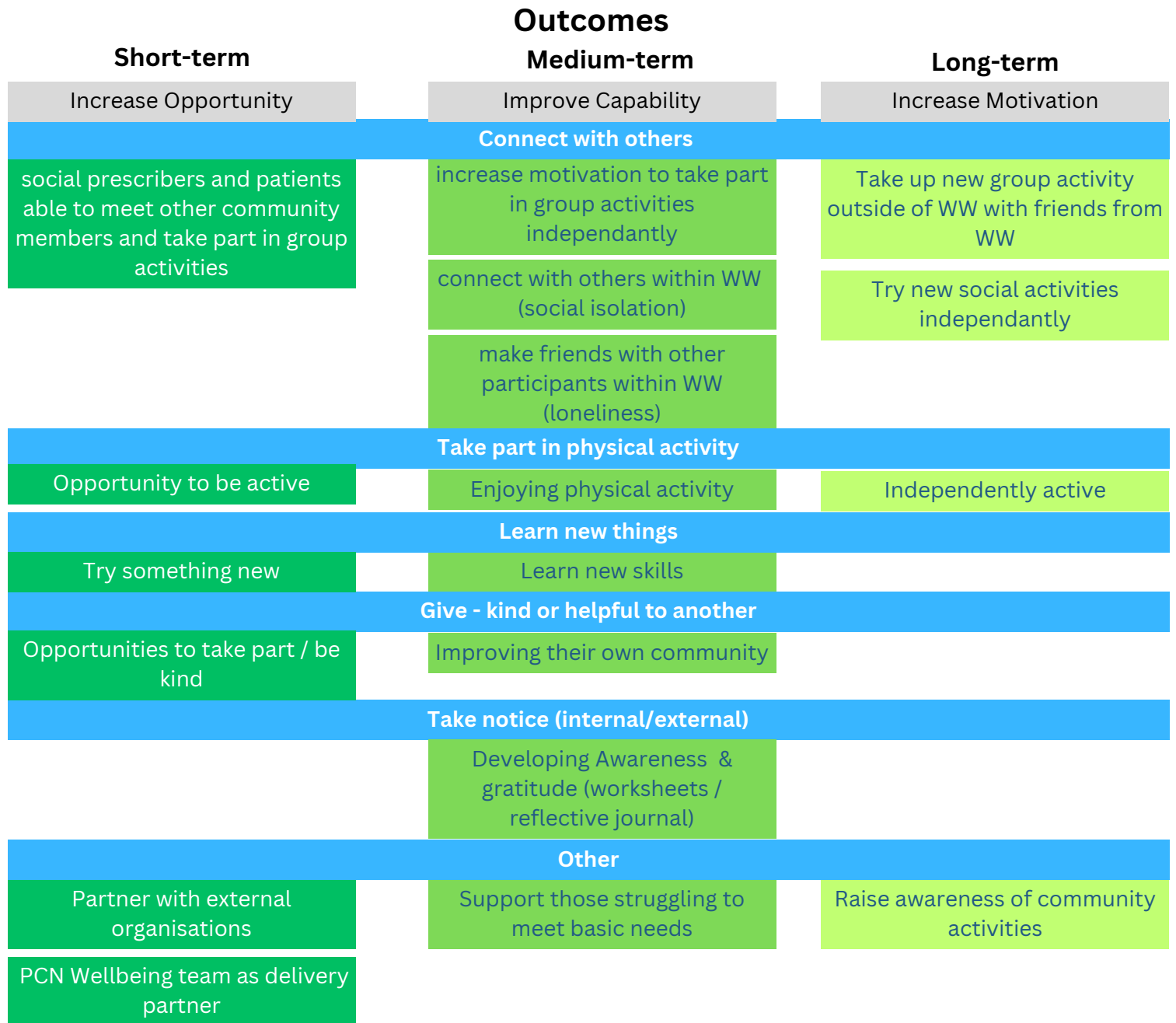
- Link back & build on previous SCAA data ('the values we want to see in Northern Devon')
- Opportunity to longitudinally measure how 'trauma-informed' local organisations are and whether interventions, such as these learning events and frameworks, can improve this.

Wellbeing Wednesday

Ilfracombe

Wellbeing Wednesday

It was a Community priority to have a physical space/group that could support patients to join in activities with others in a safe space. Developer and Social prescribers worked together to provide a space to help their patients access social activities within the community to tackle loneliness, and isolation.



Impact (overall changes/improvements)



Activities

- January 2024 CD met with Social prescribers (SP) to understand gaps
- Needs identified
- Research: Community Developer (CD) and 2xSP visited Barnstaple Wellbeing café (run by One Barnstaple CD)
- Checked project fits with One Ilfracombe priorities (authorised by programme manager and released £400 for setup (food, refreshments & kitchen equipment)
- Ilfracombe Town Council provided venue free of charge
- Co-production: CD and Ilfracombe SP's designed programme of activities based on the [5 steps to wellbeing](#) (NHSE) framework- Every morning arts & crafts, on weekly rotation in afternoon: Express yourself (poetry/singing), Gentle chair exercises, Chat & Chill (Ilfracombe friendship group)
- Advertised programme via Facebook, ITC/OI websites and [posters](#) around town
- WW opened doors (13/3/24) to patients and general public.
- The following activities have been added to the original agenda:
- Monthly Memory Café. A SP registered with the Memory Café consortium and were awarded a setup fee (£200)
- A SP and volunteer setup and run weekly 'brisk lunchtime walks'.
- Another SP and a SW Coast path rep organised a monthly guided walk for the attendees of WW (provide free minibuses)
- External organisations book slots to share wellbeing activities/support services with attendees (e.g. Living options, Man Down, Mindfulness, art therapy)
- A SP secured additional funding to take 'Express yourself with Joannie'
- attendees on an external theatre trip to see a show
- In development
- Beach/Park clean (Disco music) – Uplifting and fun walk to location (includes walk to location and volunteer community work), equipment provided. Has potential to connect with other activities (e.g. sea glass collection for arts & crafts)
- Carers café to replace memory café – increasing attendees have roles as paid carers. New need emerging for peer support & respite activities.
- Memory café moving location to museum (same time, different place) as facilitators feel it is better placed (currently in discussion) / to meet requirements/provide refreshments & activities. WW currently unsuitable: not all participants have memory problems, WW attendees are in way during setup.
- Exeter Community Trust & the Salvation Army run the 'ASPIRE' programme for 'at risk of exclusion' secondary school pupils. 'At risk' pupils volunteer at Wellbeing Wednesday once a month (Companionship and service)

Outputs

- £1500 setup funding raised: One Ilfracombe - £400 setup fees, Memory Café consortium -£200, DCC Growing communities fund - £900
- Social Prescribers secured additional funding
- SW Coast path supplied free minibus
- Ilfracombe Town Council gave free venue
- Arts & crafts materials – donated by community members
- **Donations accepted** to help continue the provision
- Feedback opportunities: Feedback during sessions, feedback book and suggestions box and notice board for people to summarise what WW means to them

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

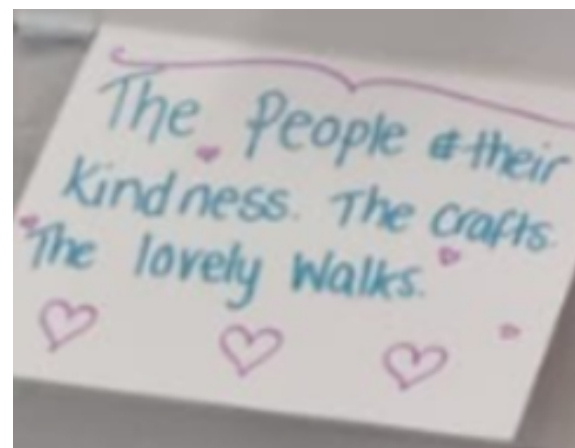
- Using reflective practice to learn what best practice looks like: Monthly meeting with colleagues
- Understanding effective ways to engage with attendees
- Improved partnerships with social prescribers
- 10+ people from IFG attended WW. As a result, approx. 8-10 WW attendees, that were not part of the IFG, have now joined and attend IFG events independently. Attendees of the Memory Café now attend the morning arts & crafts activities

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- positive social change: Creating new relationships through a new social network (reduce loneliness) and brings people together (not isolated)
- mobilising social community action: Organising a monthly beach/park clean with attendees from WW

Long-term: 24+ months (what's next)

- Create social space that connects with wider support services to act as a front door for accessing services



Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
closure of the Link centre (MH provision) participants were turning up needing MH support	Confidentiality and capacity issues)	SP offered to book a private appointment another time and CD created a <u>'what we can't do' poster</u> and a wellbeing & support services notice board with leaflets and referral details.
A participant was verbally abusive towards a volunteer.	Other participants were uncomfortable and risk increased	We created <u>'group rules'</u> so that we had something to refer back to. We also asked all participants to sign a <u>behavioural contract</u> .
Due to Health coach leaving PCN Wellbeing team the gentle chair exercises ended	Lack of physical activity option	replacement activity for gentle chair attendees - changed to uplifting walk & beach clean

Partners input

Partners and relationships

DMCC set up fee for Memory Café / help and advice

H&WB Team - Help run this group.

One Ilfracombe

Ilfracombe Town Council

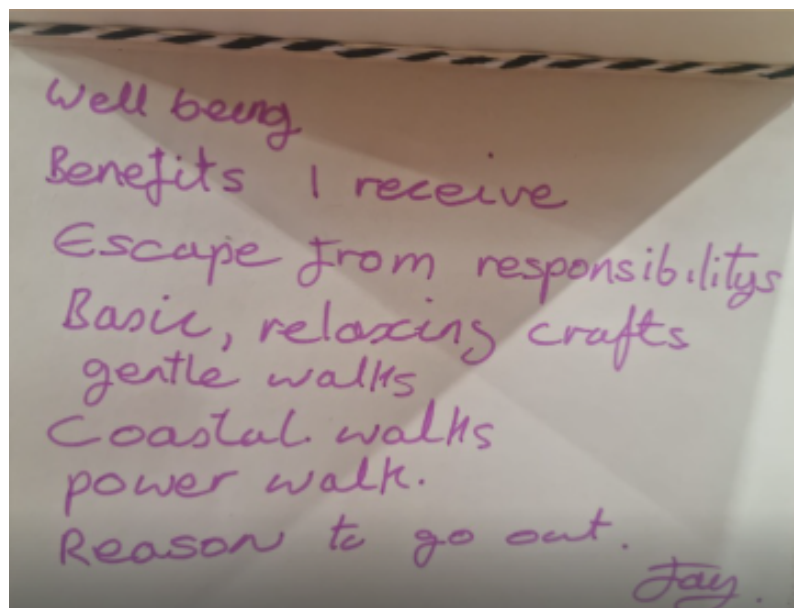
Ilfracombe Residents

DMCC

Funding from Growing Communities

Collaboration with Ilfracombe Friendship

Group & South West Coast Path



Wellbeing Wednesday Feedback

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Had Fun. out of my Comfort
Zone Such a laugh.
Thanks you enthousam, is
great Sue x.

Good fun way out of my
Comfort Zone laugh & laugh
would do it again great
Staff x.

Was alot of fun, enjoyed
being with everyone together
Just a good laugh and all
friendly.

Really enjoyed this session. It
was fun & expressive.
Everyone had a great time!
(We will definitely come to
next session) x

Such a great time.

Just what I needed
at the moment + time.

Had great fun today play
acting and singing. Very inclusu
and accepting. Dawn.

We have had a great time.
Friendly welcome & lots of laughs.
Our first time - we hope to come
again.
Dawn + Sylvia

Fantastic session with Joanne - learned
new skills, having fun, fantastic

I absolutely love the Well beings.
Its great to meet people and
make friends. The activities are
great from coloring, crafts, walks,
poetry, singing etc. I look forward
to these every week.
Thanks for all you do! ☺

I need the wellbeing Wednesday
for my mental health and to meet new
people thanks for everything you do
From Charley

I enjoy the wellbeing group. I
like the variety of things to
do and every one is so
welcoming. It helps me to meet
new people and gets me out
of the house. Some what safe
and friendly to go to.

Lots of lovely things to do,
colouring, arts and crafts,
board games, lovely
company. Great brisk
walks and its a really
nice place to spend a few
hours a week.
Thank you so much ♥

Thank you for wellbeing
group on Wednesday, nice
to meet different people
and try some different
activities. Terry K.

I love the wellbeing
wednesday has been great to
meet up with people each
week and do various
activities I especially love
the colouring and all that
attend are friendly and
a big thanks to all who
are involved with making us
happen

lovely to see Wellbeing Wednesday in
full flow and active as a new social
prescriber. Thank you.

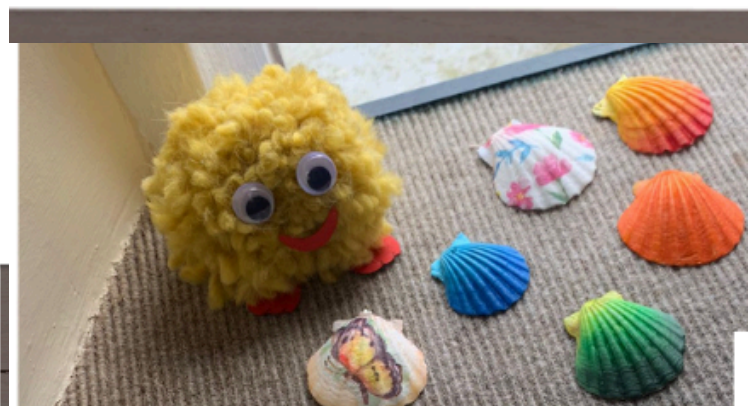
5th June

Have Wednesday Been good
for my mental wellbeing
Staff are great and group
friendly. long may it continue
Thankful for everything
Sarah x.

I look forward to Wednesday
each week it a enjoyable
day friendly people
great staff that all
ways have time for us
would not go anywhere
to meet people without
it Thankyou.
Sue x

12th June

Art was helpful, just having
some lovely people to talk to
having a bad time currently so
art is therapy and enjoyed the
session very much.
Lara & Dave.



Lessons

- Community Development supports Service improvement: the creation of a physical space for staff to meet patients in a group setting. Prior to this a SP could only signpost to pre-existing groups and patients were unable to attend alone.
- Working with partners (e.g SW Coast path) reduces waste of funding: as activities are setup for pre-existing groups (increases attendance)
- Ilfracombe friendship group - prevents duplication of similar events
- Learning from Barnstaple helped to reduce waste and avoid repeated mistakes. This led to a regular, repetitive timetable to create a dependable programme (reduces dropout). Was able to connect with applicable funding sources.
- Exeter Community Trust - 'Aspire' programme for young people – reduced silo working: creating volunteer opportunities within pre-existing group rather than something new (and unsupported).
- Memory Café consortium supported WW to setup, following a national trusted model
- The CD was previously a SP and so had strong connections with the PCN wellbeing team. Drawing on these relationships the CD was able to partner with the team to deliver a programme of wellbeing activities.

FRIENDSHIP
SUNSHINE
WILL'S SOUP

THE DIAGNOSIS OF
ALZHEIMERS TOOK A LOT
TO COME TO TERMS ME
THANK YOU ALL FOR
SHOWING ME THAT MY
LIFE IS AS GOOD
LOVELY PEOPLE AND
SUCH A WELCOME

Park
revitalisation:
Meaningful
engagement

South Molton

Park revitalisation: Meaningful engagement

South Molton’s Central Park in North Devon is a vital green space at the heart of a growing rural market town. However, residents raised concerns about the deteriorating state of the existing equipment and the lack of facilities for younger children. In response, South Molton Town Council sought multi-activity fixed equipment and worked directly with the Community Developer to engage the community in a meaningful way. The aim was to go beyond traditional Community engagement, empowering and involving community members directly.

The Community Developer conducted extensive research with the community before the tender, providing invaluable insights into local need and preference. This research played a crucial role in shaping the playground design decisions, ensuring it met the expectations and desires of the community, connected to surrounding assets and delivered the best possible play experience for all users.



The equipment has had no vandalism, we’re having lots of great feedback from the community and a group has been empowered to develop and taking care of it”
Town Council Clerk

Benefits

Who?	Benefit	Prevents/enables
Community Developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has been given a permanent desk at Town Council (‘I was previously bouncing around using any spare spaces to work, it feels like I’m more respected’). More embedded in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables CD work to be visible - as it directly benefits Council Prevents CD from leaving post due to not feeling valued by co-employer
Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds trust with local people ‘bridging relationship’ between Council and Community Supports responsibility for public consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community ownership reduces anti-social behaviour and damage within the park and surrounding area Enables Council to understand needs and wants of the community
Local population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park users – greater footfall, positive feedback, locals seen ‘toasting’ the park (picnic) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables parents, carers and children to socialise, play and support each other through key development stage

Activities

Engagement and involvement activities

- Engagement day at (old) park - 3 parent and toddler groups invited to attend
- Informal interviews with teenagers in park area, sharing pictures of potential equipment
- Working with external contractor to support co-design
- A 'National play day' event to bring the community together and celebrate the new park incl: Circus skills workshops - funded by District Council flourishing culture fund; Community artist ran neurodiverse friendly crafting activities - funded by Arts destination (local art group); Forest school activities - by 'Friends of the community'; Face painting - by Early Nourishment CIC; and refreshments - by the Benita project

Additional CD activity

- Sourcing and organising welfare facilities
- Negotiating budget with Council
- Traffic management
- Asset mapping (Utilities)
- Sourcing signage
- Park Opening with Ghana Twin Town - Organising drinks/food reception for Ghana visitors and ribbon cut

We can't bring our children to old park - feel safe, it feels like an outing a day out.

Imogen, Child minder

Outputs

- Park equipment unique to South Molton
- Multi-activity fixed equipment designed specifically for children aged 1-5, with features for climbing, crawling and role play
- Calisthenics equipment to provide older children and adults with a challenging and engaging alternative
- Messy natural play area.
- Seating area
- Engagement & project report
- Visual display for younger children
- A community street artist was commissioned to cover up unsightly graffiti and create a cultural focus.

'We never used to come to the park, now there's loads to do!'

Park User

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Engage & responds to park users wants, needs and ideas
- Co-design that respects the natural environment, sustainability and retention of green space.
- Identify local Councillors that recognise the social and environmental benefits
- Increase physical activity (footfall)
- Create a safe space that promotes social connection
- Enable park users to gain a sense of mastery (skill development)

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Reduce ASB and damage (in the park area)
- Sense of agency, empowering users to take responsibility and ownership
- Now serves as a popular hub for play and leisure, by connecting with neighbouring community assets. incl. a skate park, swimming pool, children's nursery and community centre

Long-term: 24+ months (what's next)

- Regular play day activities
- Continue to develop the local Councils understanding of the benefit of taking a CD approach to engagement
- develop a cultural shift to inform policy that creates systemic change (changing hearts and minds) - including embracing and supporting community-led partnerships for social and environmental benefit



Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
County Council originally wanted to use 'wetpore' surfacing	Loss of interaction with green space (natural play)	A natural spring lends itself to natural messy play area. Not using wetpore is not only a cost saving for the Council (Thousands). CD explained social and environmental benefits of not using wetpore. CD has a good relationship with Town Clerk who supported with the argument.
A few complaints of children getting muddy	Could build frustration (unheard)	Opportunity - to involve local charity Earth Action North Devon (Plastic free) to promote community understanding of sustainability and the importance of natural play.
Dealing with conflict and a 'patriarchal dominant culture' when trying to implement change	CD burnout	CD is developing a relational approach - practicing 'listening to understand' trying to 'respect' individual mindsets & behaviours. Whilst, recognising that cultural 'shift' is often long-term.

Partners

Partners and relationships

Touchwood play - **Contractor**

South Molton Town Council - **Funder**

Parent and Toddler groups (Methodist church) - **engagement participants**

YMCA bumble buddies - ran **neurodiverse friendly activities** at consultation day

Neighbouring Swimming Pool - created **signage for park users** to use the toilets and café

Neighbouring Scout hut - **moved their entrance** so the Scouts go in/out via the new park. Hut also opened up to **become a bookable space** for groups that want to work in the park (361 Energy were also signposted to Scout hut for energy upgrades to make the hut **more environmentally friendly and lower costs.**



Photography for wellbeing

Torrington

Photography for wellbeing group

Photography nature walk - A creative, physical, mindful activity for people with an interest in photography that wanted to build their skills and confidence and connect with others with similar interests. In June 2024 we ran a short series of 4 sessions with 6 people. Met in cafes, trip to RHS Rosemoor.



Local priority - Improve access to creative activities - General consensus, through community conversations, that many local creative opportunities are not affordable and so we prioritised engage with people that could not afford or lacked the confidence to join local groups. The nearest camera club is seven miles away and is formal prescriptive and critiquing, rather than informal and enjoyable. So we wanted to create an affordable, informal and enjoyable nurturing space that welcomed



I reignited a love for photography and went on to join lots of other creative activities in the community. I've realised I have not got the limitations I thought I had and am really exploring my creativity now
Attendee (partially sighted)

Benefits

Who?	Benefit	Prevents/enables
Volunteers	Opportunity to share skills and be involved in meaningful community benefit work	Enable work experience, preventing unemployment
Library and hospital, social prescriber	provides suitable community activities and volunteer opportunities for people with poor health and low confidence (currently lacking)	Prevents health deteriorating (mental and physical) - could be part of a rehab programme
Attendees	learning theory and practicing skills/techniques	prevents loneliness and increases volunteer opportunities through arts and heritage

Activities

- CD had just accessed funding, as part of a joint (creative activities for wellbeing) bid for the 3 localities across Torrington (Creative Lives)
- Recruit photography instructors, refugee displaced from Ukraine and local professional photographer
- Manager wanted to find a way 'to brighten up the halls' at the local cottage hospital. That is now the permanent home for the community photo exhibition.
- Secure room for indoor section of courses.

Group were very supportive, they looked out for one another, making sure they were comfortable and safe. Everyone seemed to give as well as gain something from the group

Volunteer

Outputs

- Canvas prints
- Course materials (teaching)
- Exhibition in Library and hospital
- Photography nature walks
- Promotional materials
- Knowing your neighbourhood funding (via Library)

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Improved access to creative activities
- People able to join group independently (initially supported with p1:1 pre meetings)
- Creating volunteer provider opportunities
- engaged people in volunteering at the library.
- Created an affordable, welcoming formal and enjoyable, learning space
- Raised confidence of attendees
- Reduced stress and emotional support
- Independently P3 struggled with confidence. Their confidence grew and grew. They became more vocal and part of the group., went on to join Bideford camera club. accessing other community activities

Medium: 12-24 months

- Create longer term learning journeys and connect to training, education and employment opportunities



Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
Financial sustainability – room hire, refreshments & materials	Only able to provide 2 courses	Library took on the course and ran using their resources as part of their volunteer programme
Change of instructors	Some members left group	Finding other places for people to continue their learning journey (Bideford camera club)

I struggled with confidence to start but my confidence grew and grew. I became more vocal and part of the group and went on to join Bideford camera club.

Attendee

Partners

Partners and relationships

Libraries Unlimited (Volunteer Coordinator)
Local volunteers (instructors)
RHS Rosemoor
Cafes

Its high stress as a (unpaid) carer. The course gave me valuable respite, a chance to release emotion and connect with other outside of my situation. Reconnected with a creative talent I've lost due to caring.

Attendee



Marc's Volunteering Journey



1. **Marc approached the Torrington Community Developer** at the end of 2023 enquiring as to whether there might be any suitable Volunteering opportunities for him in the Torrington area.
2. **He then registered as a Volunteer with TTVS** and we began looking at what might be available to suit Marc's skills and interests.
3. A 'Creative Lives' funding bid was approved and **the opportunity arose to run a Photography for Wellbeing Course**. Being aware that he has a keen interest in Photography, **Marc was the obvious choice to become the course Volunteer**.
4. A Community & Stock Photographer was commissioned to run the course and **Marc quickly became the instructors 'right hand man'** answering queries around all things digital photography; adjustments to digital camera settings, transferring images, formatting etc. Alongside this, **Marc produced some beautiful photography work**, which is now on display at Torrington Hospital for the Community to enjoy.
5. When the course came to an end, the Libraries Unlimited Volunteer Co-ordinator approached the Torrington Community Developer about continuing with the Photography for Wellbeing sessions for 6 months under the Knowing Your Neighbourhood funding.
6. **Marc become the lead Volunteer**, alongside the Ukrainian refugee Photography instructor commissioned to run the sessions. Once again Marc became the 'go to' person for all things digital and very often had a queue of people asking for his advice and expertise! Marc was always keen to help and always had the answer to the questions. **It was great to see Marcs' confidence grow throughout both courses.**

"I'm really enjoying it there (Museum). It's quiet at the moment but as the summer rolls around we're hoping it will be busier. I've really enjoyed the Photography for Wellbeing sessions and helping people with their questions when I can. It has given me the confidence to go for the Volunteering role at the Museum"

Marc

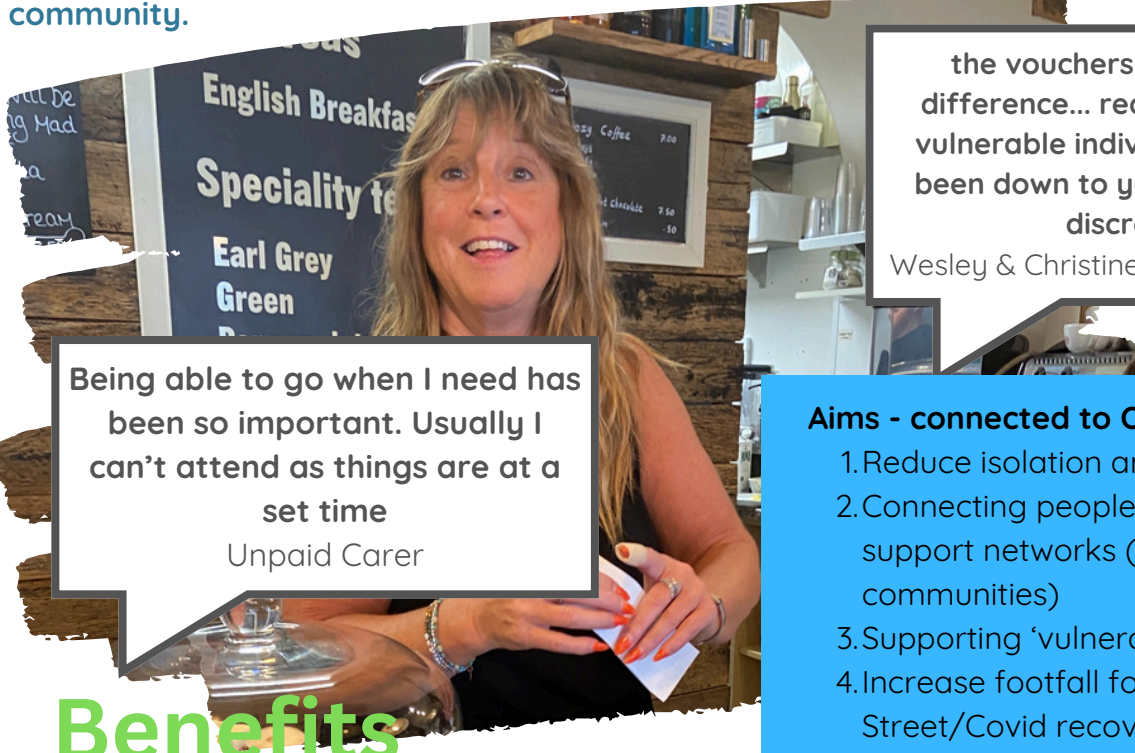
Marc has recently applied, and been successful in securing, a permanent Volunteering role at Great Torrington Museum.

Café Vouchers for Carers and the homeless

Bideford

Cafe Vouchers for Carers and the homeless

For unpaid carers in EX39 postcode to have a voucher for food and soft drink (up to £10 value), go when you want, can take cared for person, 12 months expiry – totally flexible to meet their needs. feedback shows the vouchers were welcomed and appreciated withing the community.



the vouchers have made a difference... reaching the most vulnerable individuals. That has been down to your support and discretion.
Wesley & Christine, Happy Pear Cafe

Being able to go when I need has been so important. Usually I can't attend as things are at a set time
Unpaid Carer

- Aims - connected to One Atlantic priorities**
- 1.Reduce isolation and loneliness
 - 2.Connecting people to build social peer support networks (Build resilient communities)
 - 3.Supporting 'vulnerable populations'
 - 4.Increase footfall for local cafes (High Street/Covid recovery)

Benefits

Who?	Benefit	Prevents/Enables
Community Developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased motivation and pride in work • Improved knowledge of supportive local partners and ways to reach unpaid carers/homeless people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables targeted interventions • Prevents staff loss of motivation
Local business (cafes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased footfall for local cafes 'We see people we wouldn't normally see' • Added social value: Cafe owners and staff were very enthusiastic, got a lot of pleasure to be 'able to help people' in their local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables people struggling, that wouldn't normally class themselves as 'carers', 'homeless' or 'vulnerable', to access support • Shutting down / empty high streets
Cafe staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling worthwhile (a factor of wellbeing) as they are helping vulnerable members of their community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables business to demonstrate and participate in social impact
Unpaid Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases social interaction and peer support (attending in groups) 	<p>Reduces demand on services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis prevention – less likely to impact their own mental wellbeing
Homeless people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide hot drink and food to support basic needs • Build a more inclusive, welcoming and supportive community for vulnerable populations • Provides a safe, social environment • 1 person subsequently found work and accommodation (6 wks homeless) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to care anymore (costs for DCC social support) • GP visits (I'm not coping) • Isolation & Loneliness (Social interaction and peer support)

Activities

- **Seeking partners:** CD approached cafes that had been part of a previous 'coffee and cake' scheme
- **Creating vouchers** incl. **evaluation questions** on reverse
- TTVS (Employer) supported CD to **gather and analyse data** (see table)
- **Secured distribution partners** for vouchers - who have, or know of target population(s) within their service user groups
- **Secured delivery partners** (5 local cafes)

I was able to meet other carers and also take [cared for person]. It was a real treat for us both.

Unpaid Carer

It made me feel normal for once!

Homeless person

Thank you so much, I'm overwhelmed someone is thinking about us!

Unpaid Carer

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- The vouchers have reached a wider section of these 'hard-to-reach' populations
- Increased delivery and distribution partner network
- Increasing peer support / social interactions (Cafe reported seeing small groups of carers using the vouchers together and meeting as a group)
- Provided food for hungry people (homeless)

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Bridge Trust are still keen to further fund (due to successfully reaching 'vulnerable groups' - a key aim of the charity)

The clients really appreciate being treated like any other customer, and getting a "treat", something to look forward to. It has really helped our engagement with the homeless community

Damien, Encompass Outreach worker

Outputs

- TDC Funding (£2156) for unpaid carers
- Bideford Bridge Trust funding (£2560)
- 286 Vouchers created & distributed
- 5 participating cafes

Partners

TTVS (employer) - To lower CD workload, 1 additional staff recorded vouchers distributed and feedback

5 participating cafes given discretionary vouchers

Organisations supporting carers

TTVS incl. TTVS memory Cafe, Dementia Café, Devon Carers, Devon Young Carers, Job Club

Organisations supporting homeless people and addiction recovery

Westward Housing, Harbour (Charity), Encompass South West (Charity)

Health partners

Community Mental Health team

Community partners

Library, Torridge Grow Together

Funders

Homeless people - 93 vouchers distributed

Sex: M/F/Blank	73	42	34
Age: Average Age / Age Range / Blank	50	28-80	34
	Yes	No	Neutral
Low Income?	70	5	0
Sofa Surfer?	23	51	1
New Rough Sleeping?	23	47	1
Long Term Rough Sleeping?	35	35	1
Has the voucher been useful financially?	69	2	2
Do you normally use café for food/ refreshments?	44	29	0
Did you like the choice of café available?	70	2	0
Has the voucher scheme been helpful to you wellbeing?	72	1	2
Would you use the voucher scheme again?	73	1	0

Unpaid Carers - 143 vouchers distributed

Sex: M/F/Blank	30	39	23
Age: Average Age / Age Range / Blank	64	27-88	37
	Yes	No	Blank
Has the voucher made a difference to you financially	118	3	22
Has the voucher scheme reduced isolation / loneliness	98	18	27
Has the voucher scheme been flexible to fit in with your carer responsibilities?	110	7	26
Did you attend with other carers / friends?	72	46	25
Did you attend with the cared for person(s)?	54	63	26
Did you like the choice of venues?	118	4	21
Is going out for lunch something you normally do?	41	78	24
Would you use the voucher scheme again?	120	2	21

Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
Risk - not reach target populations	risk of target populations not reached	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnered with, and distributed vouchers to, organisations that work directly with target populations and discretionary vouchers for cafe owners who shared they knew that many don't identify as carers participant in previous cake and coffee scheme (some wanted to participate some did not) 2 more cafes have come on board - opens it up to a wider client base Cafes supported people to fill in the feedback (discomfort with survey) Word of mouth is happening within the homeless and carer community - requests for vouchers has increased
Issue - Funders set criteria for target populations	Risk of not aligning with local priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local priority (One Atlantic) and engagement with partners involved to ensure funding is suitable
Issue - Some cafes did not want homeless people (only carers)	Lack of inclusive spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure cafes that a willing to include homeless people incl. rough sleepers
Risk - disempower people	Building a reliance on vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Out of scope of this project but could lead to work to empower people to increase independence, access meaningful occupation (work, activity) and achieve personal goals (what matters to me)
Very reliant on staff capacity to distribute vouchers	despite supporting over 300 carers only a small amount were given vouchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD attended peer support group and gave vouchers directly to staff (Devon Carers) When new staff joined more vouchers were distributed (Encompass)
Issue - Voucher was given to a drunk person	Cafe owner confronted to purchase alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To safeguard the café owners, CD requested staff do not give vouchers if people are intoxicated.. This led to no further incident reports

A homeless person shared that he I didn't go to homeless charities as he didn't want to be around addicts. He seemed a proud man, and was only on the streets for a month. He now lives and works on a farm. He cried when he received the voucher and the café owner could see they were a real help to him.

Community Developer



Lessons

- **Funding often dictates CD work** – they defined the populations. Is this a reflection of what the Cllrs are prioritising – vested interested in specific populations. Are Cllrs properly engaging their populations? (issue with representative democracy)
- **TTVS supported CD collating data** – Yes – took admin load. No – CD loses track of spend/overview (need check in with data collect) CD likes to collect data so they can view feedback and build understanding
- **Importance of CD field work (vs office work)** - need to be out to develop understanding and networking as this enables an asset-based approach. Setting up an activity and then you pull back can be detrimental as you need to be there to have conversations with people. Why is there that rush to move onto the next when many things organically grow from conversations.
- **Conversations and values help to build relationships and a network of supportive partners** CD has natural ability / confidence and relational skills to have this type of conversation. They also embody CD values incl. social justice, equality and inclusion to enable these types of project.
- **How we collect data has to be sensitive** - CD discomfort with surveying as a method but I will talk to people! Surveys can feel too formal and can shut down people's ability to effectively respond. A Need for a variety of informal and formal methods that CD feels comfortable with using (training) and suitable methods together the data required. E.g. 'Group interview' in a local cafe at an activity, CD is also able to identify people who need vouchers (took vouchers up to St Marys church for warden), also met someone from charity 'Harbour' to have digital assist go there.
- **Seeking feedback from Vulnerable groups can harm the relationship** (like anonymity)
- **Events held in churches - very insular** (within community/in group), often don't want to engage as they behave their own way of doing things and feel less comfortable with external people coming into their space/cliental base. Taken years to build community, develop trust and their own networks. Don't need the input of a CVS.
- **Bideford is built up of fractured communities - would need multiple CDs to cover the geographical area** - 'I scratch the surface in Bideford'. The vouchers has gone 'beneath the surface'. Reaching people that don't often have a voice.


Hope you are able to continue with a funding stream, as we all feel it's a really beneficial scheme. The clients really appreciate being treated like any other customer, and getting a "treat", something to look forward to.

It has really helped our engagement with the homeless community. Particularly want to commend [cafe]. So many clients saying how great they were.

Damien Land, Encompass Southwest (voucher distributor)


Wellbeing for Women (WOW)

Holsworthy



A safe space to come for a cuppa and a chat.
Manor Suite, Memorial Hall, Holsworthy
Thursdays 9.30-12pm. Start Date TBC

Ladies only 18+ (Sorry no children)
Occasional speakers, craft and activities
Tea / Coffee / Bacon Baps: £1.00
Donations towards running costs appreciated



Registered Charity No: 1125142 Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England 6577677

Wellbeing for Women (WoW group)

With Link centre closures across Northern Devon, many are without much needed support groups that promote mental wellbeing. In Holsworthy, the replacement for the Link Centre is only open on Mondays (MIND have insufficient funding and staff to support 2 days), The volunteer, who used to run a group from the Link centre, reached out to the CD identifying the need for a wellbeing for women group for any ladies over 18. Aligned with the local community partnership (One Community) priorities to reduce social isolation and improve mental health, the CD worked with volunteers to set something up to fill the gap.

The CD worked with two fantastic volunteers to set up a new group to:

- **Create opportunities to develop craft skills** - crafts will be of a high quality and something worth taking home or giving to someone as a present.
- **Promote Social interaction** - allowing participants to sit and chat whilst learning something new
- **MH peer support group for ladies 18+**
- connecting to existing assets (food hub)



A lot of people are struggling at the moment, financially and with poor mental health. I'm supporting everyone else, but who is supporting me? I've been able to open up to a few in the group and get the benefit of group support and offers of help.

Group member

Benefits

Benefits

- Learning / trying out new skills
- New friendships formed
- Peer support
- Increased confidence in ability - many have wanted to do crafting all their lives but never had the confidence to give it a go and have been surprised at their hidden talents.
- Some teaching others new things, with some great results - and it has also been good for them to have a chance to shine.

Mixed aged women 18+ incl. young parents

Prevents / Enables

Prevents mental ill health, reduces stress and enables opportunities for social interaction and peer support

Activities

- It was agreed that we needed a different venue - **secured a long term venue** booking at The Manor Suite, Memorial Hall with its own **kitchen facilities**.
- To attract ladies who have dropped kids at school off, we offered **tea/coffee and bacon baps** (+ toast and veggie options!) **as a breakfast option**
- **Fundraiser at coffee morning** (£185) as a set up fund
- **Applied for grant funding** - Councillor locality budget (£275 shared with the new Man Down group), a Holsworthy Town Council grant (£200) and applications to The Balsdon Trust (unable to support this time) and Thorne Farm Community Grants (£1500).
- **Set equitable entrance fees** The biggest cost is the venue which is £30 per week (this is covered by grants for the first 12 months). To keep our charges as low as possible, we charge those that can afford to pay and free for those that genuinely cannot afford it.
- **Promoted via partners and media** - PCN and social prescribing team, local schools, posters and Facebook. We haven't had to do any further publicity as numbers are where we want them to be (around 20).
- **Secure volunteer insurance** (TTVS)



Outputs

- 10 sessions so far
- 15-20 attendees (Our age range is now 20-94 and they all love it)
- Breakfast for attendees
- a range of crafts available every week (glass painting, knitting, painted plates, pompoms, patchwork, bag and bunting making, etc) and a focus craft each week such as our Easter flower arranging.
- £1500 (Thorne Farm Community Fund, administered by Devon Communities fund to fund the venue for 12-months (trying not to charge so that poverty is not a barrier)



Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

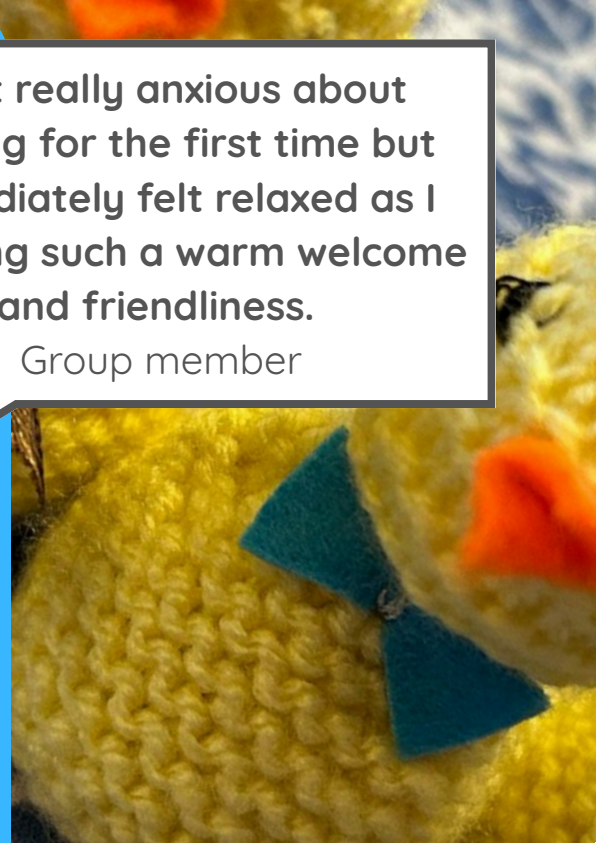
- The WOW Group attended the Thriving Together Community Health & Wellbeing event. They shared their work with attendees and were keen to chat to other people about the group and why they should join
- Improved mental wellbeing: Emotion peer support for women struggling with mental health (link centre closure)
- Some had no social life and now they are doing 3 things a weeks
- Connecting members struggling financially with food hub

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Hand over responsibility to group members
- Attend external events to spread to rural areas

I felt really anxious about coming for the first time but immediately felt relaxed as I receiving such a warm welcome and friendliness.

Group member



Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
Unsuitable venue - acoustics are poor	It can get very noisy	Actively looking for other suitable premises, hopefully at a lower cost or free - we need good tables & chairs for our format and
Participants with mental health challenges	Could get missed	Ran MH first aid for volunteers to help them identify those that are struggling with their MH to signpost and support in the group



The group has become friendly and welcoming with help from the organisers (who also make a tasty bacon butty!). I look forward to the sessions every week.

Maggie, Participant

Partners

Partners and relationships

Member Engagement Activator for the Co-op, Hols Memorial Hall. PCN Social Prescribers /Wellbeing Team. Schools and other community groups assisting with publicity.



Lessons

- CD is a long-term process and not based on stand alone initiatives - Mental Health is the hub of the wheel – creating new initiatives and connecting to existing assets (food hub) are the spokes (metaphor of theme based approach in place).
- CD shares progress and gathers support through local community partnership (One Community) H&DCF
- Meet and greet at the door for those nervous about going – from the moment I walked through the door I felt at home’ > now she is teaching the 2 youngest how to crochet (sharing skills). She feels like people care when she gets positive feedback (she is also an unpa

WOW is a great place to meet up with others and make lots of new friends. There's no pressure to participate and several members are always happy to share their knowledge. Come and join us, we will welcome you, and you too will be part of this great group.

RJ, Participant

Best group I've ever been to. I started on glass painting and am now addicted - already onto my second set of acrylic pens. You're never too old to learn something new!

Older participant

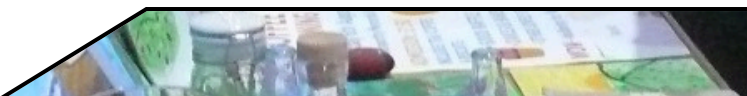
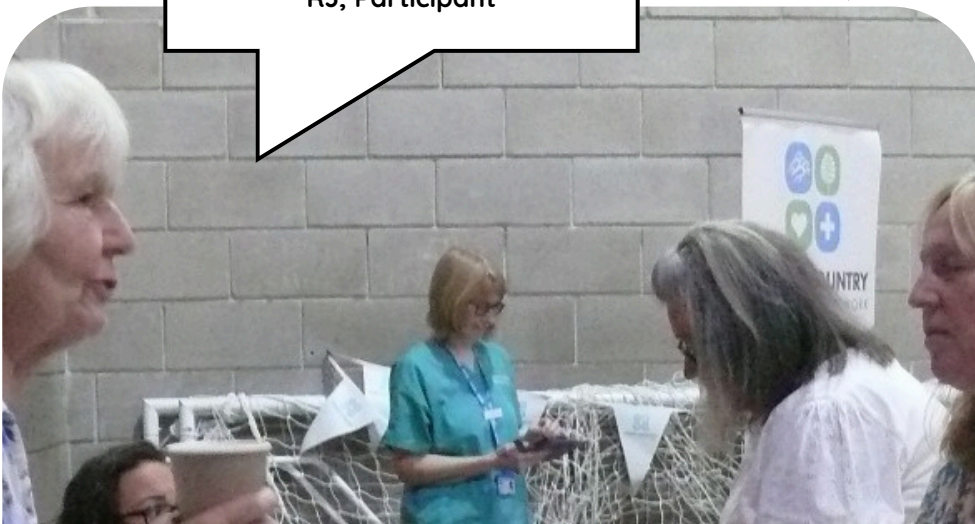
Great group glad I took the plunge to go ! Met some lovely ladies in a nice relaxed atmosphere. There's always help & advise from fellow members. It's just nice to be in an all woman's zone with no judgement or pressure. A chance just to chill

SG, Participant

Having lived in the area for a year and struggling to meet people and make friends, I decided to give the WoW group a go. I was met with a warm welcome and instantly felt included. Alison and Wendy's relaxed style created a warm atmosphere in which to get to know others whilst engaging in a range of crafting activities.

For me the group is such a welcome respite from my work as a mental health therapist. It is my opportunity to chat, meet new people, laugh, paint a plate, colour in a picture etc etc. If I want to sit quietly I can, if I want to chat I can - such is the relaxed atmosphere that has been created. It is clear that a large proportion of attendees struggle financially and emotionally. Each person has their own story to tell or to keep to themselves. The group is non judgemental and caring and in the moment of crafting or drinking tea we are all absolutely equal no matter our circumstances. I look forward to attending the group each week and am grateful that it exists. Long may it continue as it serves as a valuable resource for women's mental health and you can't put a price on that!

KJW, Participant



The Woodyard

NDVS in Barnstaple



 **Reading for Wellbeing**

Discover the therapeutic benefits of reading and improve your overall wellbeing. It's all about how you read and the way this makes you feel. Whatever your story, come to a Reading for Wellbeing session at one of our Mindful Mondays - a warm welcome awaits!

MINDFUL MONDAY DROP-INS TAKE PLACE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 10.00AM TO 2PM (FROM MON 28TH JULY 2025)

CASTLE CHAMBERS CAFE,
26 CASTLE STREET, BARNSTAPLE EX31 1DR
ENTRY £5

 Scan the QR code for details

Email: info@thewoodyard.org.uk

 **Reading for Wellbeing**

A project supported by best selling author, Ann Cleeves



Mindful Mondays



COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 10.00AM TO 2PM (FROM 28.07.25)
CASTLE CHAMBERS CAFE, 26 CASTLE STREET, BARNSTAPLE EX31 1DR
ENTRY FEE: £5

START YOUR WEEK WITH INTENTION IN A WARM AND WELCOMING SPACE!

Range of wellbeing activities with a Chatty Room, jigsaws, board games, crafts, 'Reading for Wellbeing' and Mindfulness Sessions run by Space to Be Wellbeing CIC. Opportunity to buy refreshments and home cooked food.*

**not included in entry fee*

Email: info@thewoodyard.org.uk
Visit: www.thewoodyard.org.uk

 Scan the QR code for details

"The Woodyard is a place where no-one feels lonely"

The Woodyard (Hub)

A consortium of local small charity leaders and community organisations are now working together to make the Woodyard (see fictional story 'Woodyard' by well-known author, Ann Cleeves) a reality. "A place where people come together and don't feel lonely" A place where everyone in the community is welcome. A place where even the most vulnerable and disadvantaged feel at home. A place of connection and creativity under one roof. This place is called 'The Woodyard'. See thewoodyard.org.uk for updates



Establish a shared community hub in Barnstaple that aims to:

- Renovate castle centre (Town Council owned building) to facilitate organisations House charities and community groups - where they can come together, share space, ideas and knowledge.
- Accessible - a short, level walk from the town centre, car parks and bus station.
- A welcoming space for all, but particularly the disadvantaged
- Where everyone from the community can find the help, they seek under the one roof
- Meet and connect with other people
- Engage in wellbeing activities supported by community artists, mindfulness activities, breathing exercises and creative wellbeing practices

Benefits

Benefits

40-60 year olds

- Reduced loneliness for 40-60 year olds (Target audience)
- A programme of regular events
- Community group to increase social interaction opportunities
- volunteer opportunities for existing group members to access
- Empowered volunteers - engaged and proactive that can deliver more activities in space
- Improve access to services - signpost

Prevents / Enables

- Prevents loneliness and social isolation
- prevent mental health decline incl. reduce stress, anxiety & depression (mindful activity).
- Knock-on reduce demand on health services (signposted to other community support)

Activities

- Hire out hall (Council owned) & external Cafe (privately owned) to create spaces for community-based initiatives, starting with mindful Monday (based in cafe and hall)
- Created plans for The Woodyard
- Setup steering group
- Project launch and first community consultation - at The Imperial Hotel, Barnstaple. Around 100 invited guests from a range of local charities, community groups and businesses in North Devon attended
- Fundraising goal set to raise £100,000 to begin to renovate and adapt the building
- Author, Ann Cleaves, was immediately happy to back the project and make her fictional Woodyard a reality
- Donations received [via website](#) - donations from the local community and business
- Grant applications
- Proposed venue secured - The Castle Centre (25 Castle Street, Barnstaple EX31 1DR)
- Informal drop-in/engagement for local charities and organisations
- Renovation and adaption of the building (Proposed to open September 2025)
- Starts July 2025 (Mindful Monday Cafe)
- Reading for wellbeing practitioner training (summer 2025)

“Your feedback is pure gold dust and will form an integral part of future grant and planning bids. Our open, ongoing conversation with the community is key to making our vision of The Woodyard a reality - a wholly ‘safe and inclusive space’ which embraces those from a range of age-groups, diverse complexities and needs. There will, we know, be many more conversations as we move forward together!”

Naomi Jefferies, Chair of The Woodyard

Outputs

- Mindful Mondays community drop-in sessions
- National Trust – nature-based activities
- Woodyard steering group compiled from members of organisations from Barnstaple (many are also members of NDVS’ Barnstaple Leadership hub)
- Reading for wellbeing initiative (facilitated book groups) in and around Barnstaple
- ‘Opening the book’ training (Ann Cleaves initiative) provides the wellbeing practitioner training to deliver RfW groups
- refreshments and home cooked food

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Steering group can reduce duplication and relay ideas
- Reduce loneliness (Community priority)
- Mindful Mondays help people start their week in a calm and positive way in a warm and welcoming environment

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Increase collaboration – work more closely to better serve those needing support (local charity leaders and community groups with an in-depth practical understanding of the social challenges specific to North Devon) (Organisational priority)

Long-term: 24+ months (what’s next)

- new initiatives to help foster human connection and wellbeing and, in so doing, tackle social isolation at a local level



Challenges

Challenge	Impact	Mitigation
Difficulty in securing long-term financial support.	Reliance on grants or donations that may not be consistent	Develop mixed-income streams (grants, memberships, rentals, events). Build partnerships with local businesses and government
Community Dynamics	Potential conflicts between groups with differing priorities. Cultural or language barriers limiting inclusivity	Establish clear codes of conduct and mediation processes. Celebrate diversity through inclusive programming.
Recruiting and retaining skilled staff or volunteers.	Maintaining consistent governance and decision-making.	Provide clear governance structures and transparent decision-making. Offer volunteer training and recognition to boost retention.

"The beauty of Mindful Monday is that you choose the level of interaction that is right for you. There's no pressure to join in anything - so you can simply sit quietly with a book or some headphones and relax. Or, if you're feeling more sociable that day, you may get involved in a chatty room, sharing crafts and ideas or making connections with likeminded people.
The choice is yours!"

Kayleigh Pullin-Rogers, Project Coordinator

Partners

Waymakers,
Barnstaple Town Council,
Spark UK,
North Devon Against Domestic Abuse,
Sunrise Diversity,
Families In Grief,
The Northam Care Trust,
Vista Wellbeing,
North Devon Voluntary Services,
Encompass SW,
Inspire SW,
Barnstaple Alliance Primary Care.



Farmers breakfasts

Rural Connector

Farmers breakfasts

British farmers face a complex landscape of challenges and opportunities, including climate change impacts, fluctuating incomes, and government policies. While they play a crucial role in producing food and maintaining the countryside, declining farm holdings, suicide, declining mental and physical health, ageing population and economic pressures are significant concerns. The Rural Connector supported the Farming community network to expand their 'Farmers breakfast' model into Northern Devon.

Self-running peer groups that increase opportunities for farmers to socialise, includes:

- talks
- food
- facilitated group conversation



Benefits

Benefits

Prevents / Enables

Organisation -
Farming
community
network

- Reach out to the population in need
- Find out about relevant organisations

Enables them to setup peer support networks
Enables partnership opportunities within the area (South Molton)

Staff -
Volunteers

- Provides an opportunity for meaningful work – gives a purpose.

Enables mental wellbeing, increases employment

Local
populations –
Farmers and
partners/famil
y members

- Access support network, builds ability to reach out help (too proud to ask for help)
- Improves access to services (access information)
- Reduce social isolation / loneliness
- Opportunities to share knowledge of farming
- (partners) Can join their partner and feel like there is a way to support partner – Nice seeing partner calm and as she remembered him (had become aggressive and unable to deal with him)

- DNA's Cancer care treatment (Fern centre reports DNA as they are too busy)
- Poverty/money struggles (access benefits)
- Death from lack of treatment
- Suicide
- Prevents farmers from being alone with their problems (meet people with similar experiences) - normalises issues
- Prevent relationship breakdown / abuse

Activities

Engagement and involvement activities

- farming community, community engagement to identify strengths (assets), need & gaps (at farming events and livestock market days)
- attended breakfasts as NDVS in a 'meet and greet' role

Additional CD activity

- connecting Network with local partners and referrers
- sourced and booked venue (Riverside Country club – they allow pre bookings and it was large enough)
- booking breakfast
- confirmed number of attendees with venue (farmers would contact volunteers)
- promoted (poster, flyer, facebook posts) in South Molton area
- Connected Cllr with Farming community network) as they are interested in creating a breakfast in Torrington. Met at wellbeing event and local community Developer had shared news of South Molton breakfasts with Cllr.
- recommended South Molton as it has a livestock market and an audience of farmers

'You took the time to message me and pick up the phone, no one usually does that, they don't respond anymore'.

Richard, Farming Community Network Volunteer

Outputs

- 22 farmers attending breakfasts
- self-running peer groups
- Service leaflets
- Farming information sheets
- Venue

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Reduce social isolation in the farming community (and farm vets)
- Peer support to tackle issues together (employment – find out what opportunities are around)
- Conversations with Farmers wife and farmers shared causes of isolation (incl. death of son, mental health decline, unemployment)
- increase opportunities for farmers to socialise
- connecting Farming Network with local partners and referrers
- Self-supporting now it's been setup – volunteers can continue (Funded through Farming Community Network – Farmers now pay to keep coming back). They wanted to pay a contribution towards.
- the project connects farmers to each other and the Farming community network

Partners input

Partners and relationships

Farming Community Network
North Devon Voluntary service
Livestock Market



Lessons

- **Direct communication helps develop relationships that enable the work to happen.** The importance of face-to face conversation, responding to emails and picking up the phone. Seems obvious but people really appreciate this.
- **Data highlights issues and local engagement deepen understanding** to highlight strengths, assets, needs and gaps, building relationships and better understanding what is needed.
- Being seen about the community and becoming a familiar face helps builds trust
- The farming community are very wary about being offered anything especially if it's free.
- Identified that many farmers don't want to ask for help (pride/mindset that they too busy)
- Partners (Wives) share when husbands need help (male farmers not asking for help)
- Many Farmers not aware of support services available

You must understand how bad things can get, they [husband] won't ask for help and we don't even know what help is available. Coming for breakfast seems simple but its a lifesaver. He is getting treated now and we both get to see friends
Wife of farmer

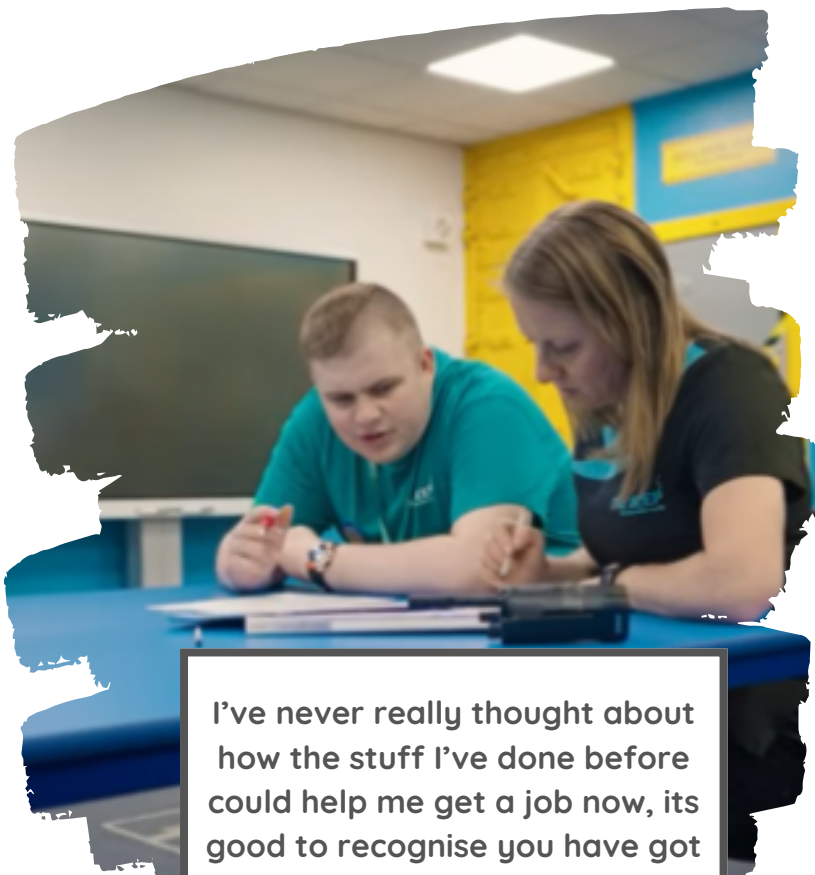


CV workshops

Youth Connector

CV writing workshops

Careers Southwest (post 16 provision) service closed, nothing currently available for young people NEET and a membership is required to SPACE to access youth volunteering & work experience opportunities (Barrier). In response, the youth connector setup CV writing workshops for 16-25 year-olds.



I've never really thought about how the stuff I've done before could help me get a job now, its good to recognise you have got skills that employers might value
Workshop attendee

Aim

- Understand and identify their transferable skills and qualities
- Build aspirations, passion, wants and needs, get them thinking of their future (Starting from current skills and qualities)
- Create an understanding of how they can match these to employer needs
- Help them demonstrate growth and aspiration through their CV
- Create a CV workshop pack for youth organisations to use

Partners

Young Devon
Bideford Medical centre Social prescriber,
Braunton Youth Collab,
Torri Youth

Benefits

Benefits	Prevents / Enables
Young people 16-24 (NEET)	
Empowered Realise their skillset Identify their passion and the effort has produced something they are proud. 'Didn't realise how much they've done in their lives already and related skillsets' Upbeat - increase energy Promotes growth Development opportunity Confidence	Young people feeling disenfranchised Deprived of the right to EET Prevents Young people NEET (given quality opportunity to access EET) - inequality of accessing EET Unemployment Mental ill-health

Activities

- Networking & information sharing – what works, who can help
- Networking - Attend One Community meetings and local youth forums – Networking and emailing, share relevant newsletters
- Connect with professional youth workers (Young Devon, SPACE)
- Support volunteer youth groups – sharing relevant funding streams, activity provision (bespoke advice)
- Identify, communicate and connect young people with suitable volunteer & work experience roles
- Gathering referrals from NDVS, youth groups, educational support services (PRUs)
- Working with the NDVS Volunteer Connector to onboard organisations, youth volunteer recruitment at event and promote Devon Connect
- Create CV on tour workshops
- Gather feedback from participants to enable improvements (co-design)

Outputs

- Mock interviews – local business people to show YP what an interview looks/feels like (in collaboration with local businesses)
- CV on tour workshops - Facilitator, Room, Session plan, Presentation, A3 CV template (incl. Digital template shared with individual or Youth organisation) > CV output (ran 2 sessions so far, Braunton Youth Club in June)

Amazing to see how engaged S & T were and I also felt that it was really empowering for both of them, which was wonderful to see their faces beam when they realised they had skills

Youth worker

Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Young people identified their experiences, qualities, skills and transferable skills.
- Improved communication skills
- Engaged and empowered to find employment
- Built understanding of transferable skills that the young people never realised they had (they come away quite upbeat)

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Connect with volunteer and work experience opportunities

Long-term: 24+ months (what's next)

- Create a path to employment, further training for 16-24yr olds

They engaged really well and comprehended the tasks and came up with good details about their experiences, qualities, skills and transferable skills. The Young Devon staff said they really enjoyed it and the young people that engaged said they found how to breakdown the sections really informative.

Vicki Highet, Young Devon

Creating community partnership

Lynton & Lynmouth

Building a new Community Partnership

Whilst Community partnerships exist in other areas, Lynmouth and Lynton have been historically neglected. The intention is to place a Community Developer in the area to start building partnership network, exploring community strengths, needs and desires to find ways to support the community



Aims

- Starting from scratch
- Empowering
- Build Community Cohesion
- Become a community champion, create new champions/connectors
- Not allowing the rurality to be a barrier
- Building a network
- Understanding the population, local need in Lynton & Lynmouth (for services) - Barnstaple/North Devon

Benefits

Benefit

Prevents/enables

Trader & shop owners

Had a voice, increased hope for positive change – feeling empowered that they can be part of the change. Started wider Community conversations.

- Mental ill-health, don't feel ignored/alone with their business / issues (bringing like minded owners together).
- Isolation - Sense of belonging and being seen. Loneliness and isolation (make them feel like they are part of a wider community).
- Profit-only business - Now Focusing on wider community benefit beyond and goes beyond their personal agenda (dog poo at the doorway, carparking etc). Whats strong not whats wrong.

Older people

Improved access to services, better understand what's available

- Mental/physical illness (refusing to/scared to phone surgery)
- Isolated – staying in the house
- Not attending appointments / support
- Isolated / dependant (if not accessing a carer)

Parents & Children

Had a voice, Feel understand desire/need, now have a notice board to celebrate successes. Parents have a sense of pride in children and children feel seen, respected and valued.

- Escalated behaviour at schools (improved mental wellbeing)
- Staff/other pupils also benefit from calmer lessons.
- Being disengaged in classroom (improved attainment)

Activities

- **Engagement and Mapping** - Coffee mornings (loud [often political] voices), shop & trader engagement (Quiet voices methodology - gentle, conversational approach, visit them in-person to understand them and build trust)

GP surgery as information hub

- CD knew a few older residents and made contact with PCN Wellbeing lead
- CD engaged new receptionist (once surgery had set up new service)
- Collates local information: H&W team lead sends H&W service information/comms to share with patients/residents
- CD creating a resource pack to clarify information for the GP surgery (as many are not online) of local services available (bespoke A4 folder directory, table display community notice board). CD keeps it up-to-date (CD looking for a local to take ownership).

Empowered locals to create/update Community Notice boards to celebrate 'hidden' assets & successes in the community (Quiet Voice methodology). includes 'Inspirational young person of the month'

- Developing links with football club, sports development officer at Cricket Club.
- Met with Headteacher.
- Signposted school to funding

'Stay and Play' Peer support group for parents with under 2's Early Nourishment CIC) focus on mental health, isolation (Loneliness), practical services (breast pumps). Early Nourishment volunteer (local mum) provides health visitor services and volunteer training (in pipeline), Volunteer-led (lead volunteer)

Building relationship with Town Councillors

Connecting organisations

- Exmoor National Park with School (nature-based outreach activities with the rangers (rock pooling) > education officer (DEFRA target)
- 361 Energy (High need of older people) - Drop-in at the Library prior to home visits to build trust and understanding of energy usage
- Age Concern meeting with CD to understand the services they want to bring to L&L (e.g. transport/carers support) > Age Concern had left area previously as they thought there was not the need. However, since the GP surgery has settled, GP/Wellbeing Team have been able to share need.

name dropping helped open conversation and build trust. For me to be relatable I try to connect with what they do know (name dropping, history etc), and build an understanding of what they don't know

Community Developer

Outputs

- Asset Map
- Needs analysis
- Resource pack (local services)
- Community Notice board (school)
- New sports equipment for school
- Stay and play peer support group for parents with under 2's
- Themed C&YP (0-19) cross-sector working group setup



Outcomes

Short-term: 12 months

- Increased understanding of local services, events, groups/associations, needs, gaps, strengths (assets), people/relationships (Key players/roles).
- CD more immersed in community (vs desk research or CD imposing themselves)
- Building trust with local people / services
- CD has opened up local GP surgery as community hub location (increase access to information/services)
- Empowered Coffee shop owner
- Teacher have taken responsibility to refresh content (photo consent, safeguarding).
- Community notice board offers kinaesthetic learning opportunity for pupils with behavioural needs (children that don't normally get recognised for achievement awards are targeted)
- School Signposted to funding (Hall & Woodhouse regional brewery), successful bid and now have new sports equipment
- CD feels connected, valued - locals are interested in the insights from the CD work.
- Increased confidence, positivity, pride in place

Medium-term: 12-24 months

- Build trust with new Cllrs: Invite town Council into non-political 'community' spaces – Library, School, National Trust workshop 'nature-based community space'
- Setup Community partnership

I'm using a gentle, conversational approach, visiting them in-person to understand them and build trust. There was mistrust and pushback to begin but I'm finding those that are open to partnership whilst listening to understand the reasons why others may be closed

Community Developer

Partners

Lynton Health centre
Lynton Library
parents/staff
local businesses
36 1 energy
Early nourishment CIC,
Lee Abbey (Love Lyn Valley)
Lyn Valley Youth Club
N Ley, the studio,
Lynton School children and staff,
NDVS
Charlie Fridays coffee shop
National Trust,
NDDC Family Hub staff
DCC Children's Services
Salvation Army
Lynton Food Bank

