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## OUR THANKS

A number of staff left during the year. So a big thank you to Cecilia Metzger our Social Prescribing Navigator, to Mandy Workman for her work on the Social Prescription service and Time Banking, Marilena Luxmore and John Wheeler for the development of the Volunteer Centre and Catherine Sackey for her contribution to voluntary sector development.

In delivering this service we have been helped by our many volunteers. Your contribution is invaluable.

Our service is crucially dependent on the support of our partners and our members. You and your beneficiaries are the reason we exist. Your on-the-ground expertise and intelligence on how policies are being delivered enable us to generate new ideas in meeting the strategic challenges.

THANK YOU



Supporting our local charities  
[www.bbwcvcs.org.uk](http://www.bbwcvcs.org.uk)

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# ANNUAL REVIEW

# 2018

# 2019

SUPPORT | DEVELOP | COLLABORATE | INFLUENCE



Supporting our local charities  
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# CHAIR'S REPORT OVERVIEW

Stella Calkin, BBWCVS Chair

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**W**e have great pleasure in presenting this Annual Review of the work of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford CVS. It has been a very busy year full of achievements and challenges. This review provides an overview of our activities.

Encouragingly both our core funders, Essex County Council and Basildon Council, renewed and extended the service's funding. This welcome vote of confidence in the service is not without challenges. These include a range of new priorities to meet some of the developing health and social care needs.

Central to our mission remains the ongoing need to assist voluntary and community organisations to function more effectively and deliver quality services to their users. We do this by training local charities, by securing additional investment for charities, by recruiting and placing volunteers and by championing the vital role our charities play to meet local needs.

This core work is complemented by our project work and activity. This year our work focused on projects to support the vulnerable at winter, projects to develop the local volunteering offer in the Borough with Time Banking, as well as our ongoing work supporting the Basildon Emergency Night Shelters and the Heart of Pitsea Big Local.

### THE FUTURE

During the year, we were approached by the FUNWALK Trust regarding the possibility of CVS taking on the organisation of the annual Fun Walk. We are delighted to be able to report we will be supporting this event for the next two years. Last year, the event raised £100,000 for nearly 100 charities—bringing the total raised since its inception in 2002 to £1,064,000. This is a welcome opportunity to work in partnership with businesses to help grow and invest in the voluntary and community sector locally. Most importantly it will make a big difference to beneficiaries of the charities.



Finally, my thanks are due to my fellow trustees, staff and volunteers for their efforts this year.

A number of the team left and we would like to acknowledge the important contribution that they made to the service. Our long-serving Chief Officer has indicated he will be moving on so we will be undertaking succession planning to ensure business continuity. We would like to thank him for all his efforts and hard work over the last nine years. We wish him well in his future career.

**£100,000**  
raised by the 2018  
annual Fun Walk.

**£1,064,000**  
total raised by the  
Fun Walk since  
2002.

“Central to our mission remains the ongoing need to assist voluntary and community organisations to function more effectively and deliver quality services to their users.”

## CASE STUDY: HEART OF PITSEA LEGACY PARK

As the Locally Trusted Organisation for the Heart of Pitsea, we supported residents with the development of the Heart of Pitsea Legacy Park. This resulted in an investment of £107,000 into the area. We prepared:

- The delivery development plan with key milestones and timelines
- Submitted the application to the Local Trust to draw down and access funding
- Drew up a partnership agreement with residents and Basildon Council for the on-going management of the Legacy Park

The Talent Match programme ended during the financial year. This five year multi-million-pound programme assisted young people aged 18-24, out of work for 12 months or more, to gain employment. The CVS provided the Secretariat during the development phase, commissioned services and was a member of the Partnership delivery board throughout the programme. We can be rightly proud that this project, led by young people, was able to support 2,388 people securing the futures for many.





# RAISING STANDARDS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



**A**s an organisation, we strive to raise standards through development work. This is to ensure that volunteers and staff from local organisations are more knowledgeable, skilled and confident in their roles.

Our agreement with Basildon Council commits us to working with 20 organisations on funding initiatives and applications. This was achieved. For example, we supported the Basildon Emergency Night Shelter to secure resources to expand winter shelter provision; we provided advice and assistance to support a successful Forget Me Not Lottery Application. This will mean improved services for rough sleepers and the homeless, as well as for carers of people with experiencing dementia. The cumulative impact of this work was that we managed to secure a total of £139,000 new investment for local groups.



Our work is critical in shaping strategic investment into the sector. This year was no different. We supported CXK with their successful application to be the European Social Fund (ESF) Community Grants Coordinating Body. Part funded by ESF, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership programme will provide grants between the values of £10-20,000 to third sector organisations to help those furthest from work improve their skills and get into work and training.

We were also instrumental in the creation of a new Basildon Health and Wellbeing Board Grant programme. We look forward to seeing the results of this work in 2019-20.

During the year, we coordinated the delivery of a range of new training courses. This included training sessions on Mental Health First Aid; training and briefings on Making Every Contact Count and sessions on mental health in the workplace.

“Basildon Emergency Night Shelter (BENS) received the Housing Justice Quality Mark for service excellence.”



Our support remains important in helping members with their organisational development. We are therefore delighted to report that our help was instrumental in enabling Brentwood Community Print to develop the Basildon Community Mental Health Tree. Our work with the Night Shelter was similarly rewarded when the Basildon Emergency Night Shelter (BENS) received the Housing Justice Quality Mark for service excellence. This this recognition enables the local community, funders and guests to be confident that the shelters operate to good standard.

## BASILDON EMERGENCY NIGHT SHELTER PROGRAMME (BENS)

In partnership with the Basildon Homeless Working Group, the CVS acts as the host/lead organisation of the development and delivery of the BENS homeless winter night shelter delivery. Our role includes securing funding,



recruiting & hosting staff and volunteers; undertaking DBS checks and managing risk.

When we assumed lead responsibility the service was operational 3 nights per week. It is now operational for 7 nights per week, uses 7 different venues, and supports over 100 guests during the winter, with 166 volunteers. This winter we were also able to extend the delivery period for a further 4 weeks.

We are delighted to advise that BENS were nominated and shortlisted for the Volunteer Team Award at the Essex County Councils Who Will Care? Awards 2019. The award is for ‘a group of two or more volunteers of any age who have made an outstanding contribution to their community either independently or with a charity, community group or employer’.

# HEALTH & WELLBEING



**A**s a CVS, we believe that voluntary organisations can make a great contribution to helping the public-sector save money and deliver better services. Small, locally based charities often deliver the important preventative services that keep people away from expensive hospital stays or frequent GP visits, for example by providing social groups, community exercise groups, befriending, counselling or debt advice.

In recognition of the important role the sector plays, Essex County Council this year asked the CVS's in the county to focus a range of key outcomes in relation to emotional and physical wellbeing, social isolation and warmer homes.

To meet these priorities the service has started to explore new interventions. These included providing mental health first aid training; testing depression screening tools and the provision of weight management within community environments. In

developing this new offer, we worked in partnership with Interact and ACE Weight Management and we thank them for their support.

We used Essex County Council Warmer Homes funding to support 8 local charities working with those most at risk during the winter. We also worked in partnership with Basildon and Thurrock University Hospital teams to distribute winter warmth packs to those in most need.

Based on the activities delivered, we estimate that there were a minimum of 1,353 beneficiaries that included low income families, rough sleepers and elderly residents in the borough.

More work remains to progress this agenda to increase preventative measures for people at risk of falling; to improve opportunities for community engagement and activity for adults with learning disabilities; as well as support measures to reduce the number of people who are socially isolated.

We have:

- Delivered a programme of Mental Health First Aid training accessed by 49 trainees from 40 organisations
- Provided access to Making Every Contact Count training
- Introduced 6 organisations to depression screening
- Held a network meeting for local befriending services
- Hosted and supported the development of the Basildon and Brentwood Community Mental Health Tree network

This work remains ongoing with a range of new initiatives planned.

## ACE WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Over 100 people attended the weight management sessions we provide at the George Hurd Centre. Operational every Tuesday, the sessions run for 2 hours and are supported by a volunteer team trained by ACE Weight Management.

“We used Essex County Council Warmer Homes funding to support 8 local charities working with those most at risk during the winter.”



Evaluations of the scheme from participants are very positive:

- “I feel so much healthier and have noticed it helps me having little and often”
- “Always cheerful, friendly and encouraging - because the programme gradually introduced chances it is easier to understand and make changes”

- “Team at BBWCVS very friendly and helpful”

- “I thought the team was very supportive and very easy to talk too”

To deliver this service we have the active support of the George Hurd Centre Team. Information on this service can be found in a range of health settings and encouragingly evidence suggests that the scheme is being championed within local practices.



# GROWING & ENHANCING VOLUNTEERING IN BASILDON AND ESSEX



**A**s a service, we are committed to supporting, enabling and celebrating volunteering in all its diversity. Our Volunteer Centre is part of the Volunteer Essex network, encompassing 14 volunteer centres across Essex. In fulfilling this mission, we undertake a range of functions including supporting the strategic development of volunteering, good practice development and brokerage.

**BROKERAGE** Through the Volunteer Centre's activities, we aim to ensure that the general public and all sectors are better informed about and have access to an effective and efficient brokerage service. Central to this work is matching both individuals and groups interested in volunteering with appropriate opportunities in the local community. We hold a comprehensive range of opportunities and offer potential volunteers support and advice matching their motivation to volunteer with appropriate

We are pleased to advise that the appetite for volunteering remains as

healthy as ever.

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTEERING

Through the activity of the Volunteer Centre and its engagement with local networks and decision makers we try to ensure that there is a positive environment in which volunteering is flourishing. To shape this environment we worked on two initiatives the Forward Motive Project and the Time Bank roll out.

## THE FORWARD MOTION PROJECT

The Forward Motive Programme is a partnership between Southend Borough Council, Thurrock Council and Essex County Council. The project aims to use targeted travel engagement with jobseekers, young people, newly recruited employees, students, lower socio-economic communities and volunteers so they can use active travel to get to work, training and educational opportunities and fully contribute

“We undertake a range of functions including supporting the strategic development of volunteering, good practice development and brokerage.”

to the local economy. The Volunteer Centre is supporting the project by working with local charities and volunteers to encourage and promote sustainable travel, as well as develop new volunteering opportunities related to active travel.

## TIME BANKING

Led by Community360, the Essex Time Banks partnership offers people the chance to exchange their time with one another. Each hour of voluntary work that helps the local community can be exchanged for a range of skills or opportunities offered by other members of the Time Bank (hour for an hour basis). This work enables people to tackle loneliness and isolation, to help others to live independently at home, to improve opportunities for those who want to gain employability skills or improve their health and wellbeing.

We are pleased to report that the Basildon Timebank continues to grow steadily and that have both individual and organisational members signed up in the Basildon, Billericay and

Wickford area.



During the year we have increased the number and location of our drop-in sessions and investigated the development of a possible reward scheme in partnership with Active Essex. This enabled the project to secure additional funding during the year.

## GOOD PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

Last year we reported on the award

of ISO 9001 accreditation to the Volunteer Centre network. Rightly celebrated, we have continued to embed these systems into our everyday practice. This year we passed our external audit. This was a super team effort lead by our Coordinator Marilena. The accreditation provides assurance to commissioners and funders, as well as members of the public and volunteer involving organisations, that the Volunteer Centre is providing a high quality and effective service.

# FINANCIAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES



**T**otal income for the year nearly doubled to £463k. However, nearly all of this increase was project-related (predominantly, for the Heart of Pitsea) and so represented restricted income. There was a small, but welcome, increase in the income for the core CVS services from Essex County Council but the total income for these core services still remains insufficient to cover the costs of these core services. Consequently, the CVS continues to subsidise these services from its reserves, which were, therefore, further reduced to £130k at the year end. Details of changes in the components of the income and expenditure are contained in the full set of Financial Statements for the year.

We are only too aware of the financial pressures experienced by our funders and will continue to take active measures to seek additional sources of funding to widen access to our services for groups. In view of the continuing

pressures on resources, the trustees particularly wish to thank our core funders for their continued support.

During the year the Heart of Pitsea undertook a recommissioning exercise for the Locally Trusted Organisation function. We were delighted to be asked to continue to provide this important support providing dedicated staff to assist with finance management; hosting staff and providing 6-monthly financial reporting to Local Trust. This was a welcome vote of confidence from the residents.

Our thanks are also due to our other investors who included the Police and Crime Commissioner of Essex, The National Lottery/Community 360 for the Timebank activity and SAVS, the Forward Motion project lead.

“We are only too aware of the financial pressures experienced by our funders and will continue to take active measures to seek additional sources of funding to widen access to our services for groups.”

## FEEDBACK

At least 75% of VCS organisations/groups report that CVS services are easy to access and are satisfied with the support they received. Feedback is collated following CVS forums and training events. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive.

Our next annual survey of service users will be conducted in May.

**£463,000**  
total income for the year.

**75%**  
of VCS organisations/groups report that CVS services are easy to access and are satisfied with the support they received.



Year ending	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Incoming Resources	£463,402	£242,268	£317,796
Resources Expended	£398,415	£273,733	£318,228
Surplus / (Deficit)	£64,987	-£31,465	-£432
Fund Balance	£273,851	£208,864	£240,329